

Sinowatz holds talks in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (AP) — Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan on Saturday exchanged views on means of solving the Palestinian question and ending the Iran-Iraq war. The UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashed Abdullah, said the two leaders also discussed ways of upgrading economic and political co-operation between the UAE and Austria. Mr. Sinowatz, he said, emphasised the necessity of Europe playing a "positive role" in efforts underway to defuse the Middle East tension, including the 43-month-old war between Iran and Iraq. No details were immediately available on the session between Sheikh Zayed and the chancellor. Austria enjoys good relations with both the Arabs and the Israelis and Mr. Sinowatz, like his predecessor, Bruno Kreisky, is generally seen in the Arab World as a potential mediator in the Mideast conflict. Mr. Sinowatz arrived earlier in the day for a two-day visit and talks with UAE officials.

Jordan Times

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Qasem delivers message to Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem Saturday delivered a message to the Bahraini emir, Sheikh Issa bin Salman Al Khalifa, from his Majesty King Hussein dealing with current Arab affairs and means of confronting dangers threatening the Arab Nation. Mr. Qasem earlier delivered a similar message to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani. Mr. Qasem will also pay visits, in the coming two days, to Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait to deliver similar messages to their leaders. In a statement to reporters at Manama airport, Mr. Qasem said that the current stage requires from the Arab Nation to rise to a level which will enable it to successfully confront the dangers threatening the eastern and the western flanks of the Arab Nation. He also called on Arab nations to transcend their differences and deal with world powers in a manner that can best ensure the Arab Nation's interests.

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2 Israelis injured in E. Lebanon attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two Israeli soldiers were wounded early Saturday when light arms fire was directed at their position in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the military command said. The command's communique said the attack occurred after midnight, northwest of the village of Joub Jennine and the soldiers were evacuated to a hospital in Israel. It added that Israeli troops were searching the area. It was the second attack in two days in the area which borders the Syrian-controlled sector of Lebanon.

Fateh to seek results of Aden meetings

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh command group said Saturday it would send a delegation to Aden for consultations with South Yemen officials on recent meetings there between three factions of the divided Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The three factions met in Aden last week as South Yemen tried to patch up PLO disputes prior to a meeting of the PLO's parliament-in-exile, the Palestine National Council (PNC). The three groups that took part in the Aden meetings were George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) of Talaat Yacoub.

Gemayel sends letter to Reagan

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has written to President Reagan about U.S.-Lebanese relations following Lebanon's abrogation of a U.S.-sponsored accord with Israel, the official National News Agency said Friday. The agency gave no other details of the letter, which Mr. Gemayel apparently wrote soon after talks here with U.S. special Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday.

Rumsfeld briefs Reagan, aides

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East envoy, Donald Rumsfeld, reported to the president and his national security advisers Friday about his just-completed talks with leaders of the region. No details of the report were released. Mr. Rumsfeld returned to the United States Thursday from a trip that began March 21.

Assad: U.S. lost its credibility

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said Saturday the United States had lost its credibility and could not play a constructive role in the Middle East, the official SANA news agency reported. He told visiting Oregon State Governor Victor Atiyeh that the U.S. "cannot play a constructive role in the region and is completely aligned with Israel."

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Mrs. Sharaf lashes back at campaign against queen's visit

'Success of Elizabeth's visit belies insecurity propaganda'

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Britain's Queen Elizabeth's recently concluded state visit to Jordan was a "very fruitful" and "positive" one and its success refuted all arguments about the "insecurity" of the queen in Jordan, Information Minister Laila Sharaf said Saturday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mrs. Sharaf said the British monarch's visit was aimed at promoting good relations that exist between the United Kingdom and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. "We have historical ties with Britain which have developed into a positive and friendly relationship and the visit was a very good step on the way of strengthening our future dealings and relationship," she said.

The queen's visit, Mrs. Sharaf said, made international attention focus on Jordan and belied the propaganda of "insecurity" in Jordan. "It (the visit) has put in focus the security, the stability and the life in Jordan in a positive light," Mrs. Sharaf said.

Referring to a bomb explosion at the Intercontinental Hotel car park a day before the queen's arrival in Jordan, Mrs. Sharaf said that it was meant for the attention of the British and foreign journalists who were covering the queen's visit. The explosion was meant to convey to the journalists that Jordan is an "insecure" country not safe enough for the queen's visit, Mrs. Sharaf said.

Most of the journalists were staying at the Intercontinental Hotel, Mrs. Sharaf pointed out. "It was a futile attempt at discouraging the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. It was only a sound bomb and not destructive and we were certain that everything would proceed well as in the past during the visits of various heads of state."

Asked what the queen's reaction was to the explosion, Mrs. Sharaf said that the British head of state did not mention anything about it and she did not seem "to

be aware of any security problems, and she was relaxed and happy."

'Propaganda failed'

Mrs. Sharaf said that the propaganda campaign built up against the queen's visit to Jordan started in Israel with the British correspondent of the "Times" writing the first item of news regarding the "insecurity" in Jordan. "It was obvious that it was a campaign to prevent her visit but we are glad that we were able to show them that stability and security of Jordan are still at a very high standard, much higher than those in many European capitals."

"It is a mad world and threats do occur sometimes, but if one has the control over the security matters in the country, one can control and avoid them and that what has been done all through in Jordan," the information minister added.

On controversial reports by some of the British journalists covering the queen's visit, Mrs. Sharaf said: "One cannot avoid such kind of reports but one should not give them overestimated and exaggerated attention."

"We cannot expect everybody to be friendly and positive. There are many people perhaps bothered for their own reasons and they reflect badly on the visit."

'No paper plates'

It was brought to Mrs. Sharaf's attention that some of the British journalists had belittled the queen's visit to the Dead Sea and one newspaper had talked about the queen having to eat out of paper plates while sitting on plastic seats.

Mrs. Sharaf remarked: "We

had never any paper plates or plastic seats for any head of state, let alone Queen Elizabeth."

"The lunch the royal couple had in the Dead Sea was sort of a picnic on the shores of the Dead Sea — on the sand and on the stones and inside a tent — for it was not an official banquet."

She added that the lunch could not have been planned like a state banquet but "the food was definitely not served in paper plates."

"It would have looked to Her Majesty as well as to everybody else as austere, as a picnic and not a banquet," Mrs. Sharaf said.

She added that the right table setting for the picnic was arranged and the plates were not of paper, "they were good china of a kind that is suitable for picnics in character as well as in quality."

Going back to the results of the visit, Mrs. Sharaf said that it has shed new light on the Palestinian issue from the human point of view "although politics were not discussed as they were not supposed to have been."

Mrs. Sharaf pointed out that Mr. Richard Luce, the British state minister who is concerned with the Middle East, who accompanied the queen during her visit, "have carried with him many positive elements of the visit along with new information that he was probably exposed to during the visit."

"We think that the visit contributed positively to our mutual relations and to the Palestinian question as well," Mrs. Sharaf said.

Regarding the queen's role in promoting the Arab cause, Mrs. Sharaf said "Queen Elizabeth has weight in her country. Although she cannot interfere in the policy-making process her opinions are always taken into consideration, respected and reviewed."

New orientation

Asked if there would be a new British initiative towards the Palestinian cause, Mrs. Sharaf said: "I think there is a new orientation in the European politics to understand the Palestinian problem better and the human dimensions

that are involved in it as well as the problem of self-determination, of human rights and the problem of the people seeking to have their homeland, a passport and an existence as every other people in the world."

This orientation, she added, has been witnessed in the recent declarations by European foreign ministers gathered in Brussels who reiterated the principles that were mentioned in U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 about the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination as well as their right to be involved in any solution of their question.

"We think that Europe can play a very positive role, and that Britain can be one of the leaders in playing this role," Mrs. Sharaf said.

In reply to a question whether Jordan is seeking arms from Britain, Mrs. Sharaf said Jordan would seek arms for its defence not only from Britain but also from any other country, as reiterated by His Majesty King Hussein in a press conference at Amman immediately after the queen's departure on Friday.

In reply to another question, Mrs. Sharaf said: "We are not looking for totally abandoning U.S. military or diplomatic support but the King's interviews and declarations in the past few weeks were only an explanation of the true nature of our problem directed at the American public, the U.S. Congress and administration."

2 more wounded in Land Day protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinian demonstrators were wounded Saturday in separate incidents on the Israeli-occupied West Bank in continuing demonstrations to mark "Land Day."

The anniversary Friday of the 1976 protests in which six Israeli Arabs died, was marked by Israeli soldiers opening fire on the demonstrators wounding four.

During demonstrations Saturday throughout the West Bank, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded one Palestinian in Dehshis refugee camp near Bethlehem, and a student at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah, a police spokesman said.

Elsewhere in the occupied West Bank there were reports of mass rallies and demonstrations.

The Palestine Press Service said a 14-year-old boy was wounded when Israeli soldiers shot into a group of some 300 people in the Dehshis refugee camp — a hotspot of anti-occupation activity on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

At Bir Zeit University near Ramallah, students barricaded themselves on a hilltop campus after being pushed back from the main road which they tried to block, police said.

On Friday, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded four Palestinians in the West Bank during demonstrations marking Land Day.

Arab League Council Tunis talks near end

TUNIS (Agencies) — An Arab League Council meeting here moved into its final stages Saturday after agreeing to put off discussions of how to convene a twice-postponed Arab summit.

Delegates decided Saturday night to call an urgent foreign ministers meeting on May 15 to take place somewhere in Tunisia, but not in the capital, to discuss the possibility of holding the troubled summit.

The May 15 meeting will be the third high-level Arab forum in three months, following an emergency ministerial meeting on March 14 in Baghdad on the Gulf war and the current regular session of the Arab League Council.

Last year's Arab summit scheduled for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, has been put off twice due to inter-Arab differences stemming mainly from the split in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Iran-Iraq war.

Reuters quoted conference sources as saying some delegates, headed by Iraq and the PLO, had pressed for the current session to debate the summit issue to prevent the meeting slipping further away.

But delegates adopted a Kuwaiti proposal to convene a special session on the summit issue and leave the current meeting free to discuss its heavy agenda of mainly financial affairs.

Jordanian messages
Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri is expected to deliver two messages from His Majesty King Hussein to President Bourguiba of Tunisia and the Algerian President Chadli Benjedid dealing with Jordan's relations with their countries, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra said.

The agency also quoted Mr. Masri as expressing satisfaction with the outcome of the Arab ministers' meeting in Tunis, especially on matters concerning Israel's intention to extend its laws and legislations on the occupied Arab territories and its plans aimed at evicting the indigenous population from their homeland and over the Israeli plan to dig canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea.

Mr. Masri, who attended the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, described the decisions as important.

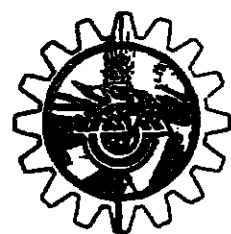
U.S. not to attend U.N. conference on Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States has announced its absolute rejection of taking part in a projected international peace conference on the Middle East scheduled to be held in Geneva later this year under the auspices of the U.N. General Assembly resolution. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry here said that the U.S. decision has been relayed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier

Perez de Cuellar in reply to a memo circulated to U.N. Security Council members in this respect.

The U.N. memo has also been circulated to all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). According to the spokesman the U.N. secretary general had requested the concerned parties to inform him of their views over this issue.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only



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MNF ends role in Beirut

French forces leave Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The last French remnants of the Multi-National Force (MNF) sailed out of Beirut Saturday, ending 19 months of service by the United States, France, Italy and Britain in Lebanon.

A 15-minute farewell ceremony was held under a warm Mediterranean sun for the 50 departing French soldiers at Beirut port and another on the French aircraft carrier Clemenceau off the Lebanese capital.

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and Defence Minister Charles Hernu, who flew in earlier in the day, attended both ceremonies as representatives of France's President Francois Mitterrand. Defence Minister Issam Khoury represented Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

A band played the Lebanese national anthem and the Marseillaise. Then France's army chief of staff, Gen. Jeannou Lacaze, read out a 16-line order of the day.

"Your mission has come to an end," the chief of staff told the departing soldiers. "We salute the memory of those who have fallen. You have by your presence, your courage and your sacrifices contributed to the defence of peace, of unity and of sovereignty of a nation that is a friend of France."

Mr. Cheysson told reporters at the ceremony: "France has been here several centuries and she hopes to be here several centuries more."

The ministers and militia officials then flew by helicopter to the aircraft Clemenceau for a reception, French military spokes-

man Sean-Yves Blouin said. About 150 French soldiers boarded a flat-bottomed boat and set out for the landing ship Ouragan which is to take them home. Another flat-bottomed boat and a naval transport ship waited while soldiers packed up the last tents and equipment.

Only a few days ago the idea of rival militia officials attending a reception together would have seemed impossible.

But since a reconciliation conference of Lebanese leaders in Lausanne earlier this month, the factions are showing increasing proof that they are serious about establishing an effective ceasefire, even if they cannot yet agree on an overall political settlement.

A high-powered committee of representatives from the three main militias and the army, chaired by President Amin Gemayel, has met three times this week and Beirut is now quieter than at any time since the latest fighting started in early February.

For the first time since Syrian troops entered Lebanon to end the 1975-76 civil war, there are now no foreign troops separating the armed groups in Beirut.

The French force, which has manned a buffer zone on the "green line" dividing mainly Christian east Beirut from the mostly Muslim west of the city, handed over its positions to a team of 300 Lebanese police and lightly armed French military observers.

French soldier disappointed; Reagan orders total Marine withdrawal, page 8

Spanish foreign minister expected

Spanish foreign minister expected

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Fernando Moran is scheduled to arrive here Tuesday from Damascus on a four-day official visit to Jordan as a follow up to a short visit by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to the Kingdom one month ago.

Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez del Valle said in an interview with the Jordan Times that Mr. Moran's visit is aimed at broadening bilateral relations and to gain first-hand information on the latest developments in the Middle East.

Mr. Del Valle said Mr. Moran's seven-day Middle East trip, which includes Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia will witness discussions on co-operation in the field of defence and other areas.

He added that Spanish ambassadors of 10 Middle Eastern countries will assemble in Amman during Mr. Moran's visit to discuss various issues pertinent to Spain's relations with the countries of the region.

Mr. Moran, who arrived in Riyadh Saturday, will be visiting Damascus and would end his three-nation tour in Amman. He is scheduled to meet with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Information Minister Laila Sharaf, Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Oweidat and other high-ranking officials.

Reagan takes final step for Lebanon Marines withdrawal

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is taking the final step to end U.S. participation in the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Lebanon, defusing a potentially explosive issue in the campaign for November's presidential election.

Mr. Reagan intends to return the 1,800 Marines of the four-nation MNF in Beirut to normal duty soon with the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. White House officials said Friday night.

"The United States has not abandoned Lebanon," Mr. Reagan said in a report to Congress. "However, the continuation of our participation in the force is no longer a necessary or appropriate means of achieving these goals."

The Marines were withdrawn from exposed land positions to their ships off the Lebanese coast in February.

Mr. Reagan's new action completes a strategy he rejected earlier despite pressure from influential congressmen, threatening a major controversy in the campaign for his re-election.

The president gradually transformed his Lebanon policy, starting with the withdrawal of the Marines from Beirut only a few days after he rejected repeated calls for such a pullback.

Mr. Reagan said only last month that those urging a withdrawal were advocating a policy of "cut and run" that would abandon Lebanon to terrorism and chaos.

Congressmen continued to voice concern the United States might become involved in hostilities in Lebanon even after Mr. Reagan withdrew the Marines from Beirut to ships offshore.

The United States has now joined Britain and Italy in ending participation in the MNF, and

France intends to complete the withdrawal of its contingent this weekend.

Mr. Reagan's decision to return the Marines to normal duty in the Mediterranean was disclosed by Deputy White House Press Secretary Bob Simms after the president sent his final report to Congress on U.S. participation in the MNF, and left Washington for his Camp David weekend retreat.

Mr. Reagan said in the report a limited number of American military personnel would stay in Lebanon to provide security for the U.S. diplomatic mission and training for the Lebanese army.

He said he would continue U.S. diplomatic support to seek peace in Lebanon and unity among its warring factions.

Mr. Reagan consistently rebuffed statements by his critics that U.S. participation in the MNF was a futile and dangerous military involvement.

But just before he removed the Marines from Beirut he acknowledged their exposed positions.

as Falangists and Syrian-backed militias battled in the streets of Beirut and he also acknowledged the difficulty of protecting them against terrorist attacks.

Of the 264 U.S. military personnel killed in Lebanon, 241 died in a suicide bomb attack against a Marine headquarters outside Beirut in October.

In his report to Congress, Mr. Reagan said the limited number of U.S. military personnel staying in Beirut were not members of an international force and he did not intend or expect them to become involved in hostilities.

"Nonetheless, U.S. naval and air forces in the Mediterranean area, including Marines deployed from Lebanon, are available to protect our military and diplomatic personnel should that need ever arise," he said.

Mr. Reagan estimated the cost of U.S. participation in the MNF over 18 months totalled \$59.7 million.

Sudan seeks speedy delivery of U.S. arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sudan has asked for a speedup in delivery of planned shipments of United States arms because of recent Libyan air incursions, the Sudanese ambassador said Friday.

The State Department said Thursday that U.S. ammunition and other military equipment will be airlifted within the next few days to help Sudan's defence against external aggression.

Ambassador Omar Saleh Eissa told a press conference that Sudan also wants to halt the flow of weapons from neighbouring Ethiopia to insurgents in the southern region of Sudan.

The State Department said U.S. military assistance is to protect Sudan against external threat and not for use against the insurgents in the south.

Mr. Eissa said the Sudanese government's policy is to seek reconciliation with the insurgents in the south and expressed confidence that dialogue could resolve the differences with them.

He said the appeal for a speedup in U.S. arms supplies was based on the external threats from Libya and Ethiopia.

Mr. Eissa said the U.S. military aid programme for Sudan was originally prepared following the visit of a U.S. technical team to the country in 1977.

U.S. may reconsider Turkey aid vote

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to reconsider a vote to withhold \$215 million of Turkey's 1985 military aid, Senate and administration sources said Friday.

The issue could be resurrected when the committee resumes debate on Tuesday on the 1985 foreign aid bill, they said.

Republicans joined Democrats on the panel this week in showing impatience over the Cyprus issue by tentatively approving the withholding 11-7 over strong administration protest.

The measure would allow President Reagan to release the \$215 million only if he could certify to Congress the formerly Greek-Cypriot resort of Famagusta-Varosha had been returned to the

Cyprus government under U.N. auspices for refugee resettlement.

The measure, an amendment to the 1985 foreign aid bill, also would trim Mr. Reagan's military aid request for Turkey by \$40 million to \$715 million, including the \$215 million. The House of Representatives has already approved the \$40 million reduction.

An administration source said Friday the measure must be altered so Greece does not "have all the leverage" in negotiations over Cyprus.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared independence from their Greek Cypriot counterparts last November and the move was officially recognised by the Turkish government.

In addition, Turkish troops

have occupied part of Cyprus for 10 years, exacerbating longstanding Greek-Turkish tensions.

Talks between Turkey and the U.N. on this issue were expected to yield some results by the end of March. U.S. Undersecretary of State William Schneider told the committee earlier this week.

Republican Senator Charles Mathias of Maryland accused his colleagues of an "arrogance of power" in presuming they could legislate an end to a centuries-old rivalry between Greece and Turkey.

But some senators have argued, the Turkish occupation of Cyprus has been tolerated too long and a strong message must be sent, despite the fact Turkey is an important NATO ally.

Turkey to lift visa requirements for Greeks



Turgut Ozal

goodwill we are now unilaterally lifting visa requirements for Greek citizens visiting Turkey."

Mr. Ozal said he would like to see the Greek government respond positively to the gesture "if it seriously wants good relations with Turkey."

Relations between the two countries have been strained by issues including the Cyprus problem and disputes on territorial rights in the Aegean.

Greece said last month it was withdrawing its ambassador to Ankara because Turkish warships had fired at a Greek destroyer, but later reversed the decision, saying it accepted that Turkey had not intended to endanger the vessel.

Mr. Ozal said his government was also trying to reform prison conditions and had set up a commission of senior civilian and military officials and medical experts to study complaints of human rights abuses.

Asked about recent hunger strikes in an Ankara military jail by over 400 inmates protesting against torture, maltreatment and prison conditions, Mr. Ozal described them as "organised actions, under the guise of human rights," and said the authorities were still studying the situation.

He said he had received reports that the hunger strikers were secretly stocking food in the jails.

"This human rights problem has been exaggerated. We are often subjected to criticism from abroad. We even receive requests to free those who are presently being tried for murder," Mr. Ozal said.

"While turning a blind eye to tough measures taken by the British in Ireland, the French in Corsica, the Germans for Baader Meinhof and the Italians for Red-Brigades, there are those who criticise the measures of Turkey, which has faced over 5,000 killed (in disturbances before the 1980 military coup)," he added.

Mr. Ozal said there had so far been 381 prosecutions in cases of human rights abuses in the prisons, with 146 more still being studied.

Earlier this month relatives of prisoners said at least 12 people had fasted to death in Turkish jails in protest against tortures, and a group of their representatives Saturday repeated their allegations to the press in front of Mr. Ozal's office.

Mr. Ozal said the committee investigating the situation started working 15 days ago and would shortly submit its report to the government.

Senate panel approves boost in Egypt aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Friday approved a \$65-million boost in aid to Egypt because earlier this week the panel voted to increase aid to Israel by \$350 million more than asked by President Ronald Reagan's administration.

The move, approved on a voice vote, would raise economic aid to Egypt — including food loans and grants — to \$1.058 billion. The committee would give Israel \$1.2 billion in a cash grant.

Under the committee version, Israel is to receive \$1.4 billion to spend on arms in the United States and Israel. The amount is \$100 million more than approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

In recent years the full Congress has generally given Egypt and Israel the highest amounts recommended by the committees.

Republican Senator Charles Mathias, who proposed the increase to Egypt, said it was in keeping with the spirit of Camp David, when the United States pledged to keep aid to Egypt and Israel in "rough equivalence."

Sen. Mathias said he expected the money would go to help Egypt meet its balance-of-payments problems. Most aid to Egypt is required to be spent on specific projects or equipment.

South Korean company vessel allegedly hit by Iraqi missile

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The South Korean vessel that sank Tuesday in the Gulf waters off the north-eastern corner of Saudi Arabia was hit by an Iraqi missile, reliable shipping sources said.

The sources, who refused to be identified, said Saturday that investigation has "cleared up the confusion" as to whether the boat was sunk by a missile in the Gulf war, or by the "nasty weather" in the region.

The 290-ton vessel was owned by South Korea's engineering and construction company Hyundai along with a Saudi Arabian partner.

A spokesman for Hyundai in Seoul said Thursday that he had no evidence then to support press reports that the boat might have

been sunk in an air attack.

The spokesman also said one Korean worker was killed and eight other Koreans were injured.

At the time of the sinking, the spokesman said, the boat was delivering food and other supplies to an offshore construction site in waters between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

According to the shipping sources, the South Korean vessel was servicing the Safaniyah Oilfield, Saudi Arabia's largest oilfield which is operated by the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco).

Last Tuesday, the Iraqis announced their French-made Super Etendard jetfighters sank two naval targets in the "exclusion zone". They warned vessels not to

approach as long as Iraq's war with Iran was raging.

One of the two targets Iraq announced hit last Tuesday was identified as a Greek tanker full of Kuwaiti crude. The other was not clearly identified.

Iraq on Thursday said its Super Etendards sank another four targets.

Hyundai company branch officers in Bahrain said the attack on their vessel by an Iraqi missile was "a dangerous precedent, since the vessel was operating neutrally."

Vessels hit across the months so far had been at Kharg Island, the Iranian oil terminal, or close to it. Saudi Arabian officials in Riyadh refused to comment on the incident.

U.N. condemns chemical warfare in Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Security Council approved unanimously Friday a statement strongly condemning the use of chemical weapons in the war between Iraq and Iran.

The action followed an investigation in Iran this month by U.N.-appointed toxicologists who determined that mustard gas and the nerve agent tabun had been used there.

Iraq was not blamed by the investigators in their report, issued last Monday, or by the council Friday in a statement that noted "with particular concern the unanimous conclusions of the specialists that chemical weapons have been used."

The council renewed appeals for a ceasefire in the 42-month-old Gulf war and backed continued efforts for a peaceful settlement "in conformity with the principles of justice and international law."

The statement, agreed to during private consultations Thursday and Friday, was read out at a brief open meeting by the council president, Javier Arias Stella of Peru.

Earlier, Arias Stella had conferred with Iranian delegate said Rajaei-Khorassani who told reporters later that he wanted a strong condemnation of chemical warfare.

Iraq has accused Tehran of fabricating the alleged attacks and said the evidence presented by Iran to the U.N. team was fake.

Earlier this month French newspapers reported that some of the alleged Iranian victims of chemical weapons were civilians injured in a chemical plant explosion near the Iranian city of Ahwaz.

French soldiers disappointed for not bringing peace to Beirut

By Randall Palmer
Reuters

BEIRUT — French soldiers leaving Beirut to the sounds of battle say they are disappointed they have not brought peace to Lebanon, but believe their presence achieved some good.

"We did what we could," said a soldier in a line of troops lugging heavy backpacks and carrying Famas automatic rifles waiting to board ship, amid gunfire and explosions from the nearby confrontation lines.

The noise of war all but drowned out a moment of celebration at Beirut Port on Tuesday as a group of departing French troops sang to a guitar and a home-made Ukelele strummed by two Tahitian soldiers.

"That violence is their fault," the soldier said, gesturing towards the Green Line where Lebanese army units loyal to President Amin Gemayel and right-wing Falangist militiamen do daily battle with their opponents.

"We will leave and they will do exactly the same again," said a 21-year-old soldier who identified himself only as Eric, from Verdun.

"They will make war again. They will die here," he added.

Fighting continues

The fighting has continued throughout the weeklong withdrawal, giving rise to fears of battles to come for French positions along a two kilometre stretch of the frontlines.

Even as the French pull out, and their commanders try to negotiate the handover of their positions to a neutral force of Lebanese police, the fighting sometimes comes per-

iously close.

On Monday, the second day of the withdrawal, a rocket landed in the harbour waters as troops embarked. On Tuesday, a mortar bomb crashed near their positions in the centre of town.

Almost all the soldiers said they would be glad to get home to their wives and families, and to sleep in peace away from the permanent noise of battle in Beirut.

But some expressed mixed feelings about leaving, saying they had enjoyed Lebanon, its sunshine and people, whom they found friendly when they were not shooting at each other or at the French.

Eighty-nine French soldiers died and 105 were injured during their 18 months manning some of the most exposed and hazardous strongpoints and checkpoints in Beirut.

They were often threatened and often attacked. Fifty-eight paratroopers died on Oct. 23 in a suicide truck bombing of their headquarters paralleling the similar attack that killed 241 U.S. servicemen on the same day.

Another truck bombing was foiled by French fortifications in December, with the loss of only one man, and for weeks on end the troops came under nightly attacks from gunmen firing automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

But the French troops, last contingent of the Beirut Multi-National Force, stayed on longer than the Americans, Italians and British, indicating France's close ties with Lebanon after centuries of involvement in its affairs.

Right through the final week, a month after other foreign contingents had left, French jeeps fly-

ing small red, white and blue tricolours patrolled parts of the capital despite continued threats of attack from Islamic fundamentalists.

Their presence, until the last moment, at the single crossing point between east and west Beirut reassured travellers running the gauntlet of rival militia checkpoints at either end of 500-metre crossing.

"I think our presence was positive and we were able to prevent the worst during the time we were here," said a 30-year-old marine lieutenant from Vannes, Brittany.

"The fact that there wasn't peace was an internal affair," he said.

He said that while the Americans, British and Italians pulled out quickly after the opposition militia takeover of west Beirut last month, "we are leaving without panic, with the agreement of the (Lebanese) government."

"We waited for the (Lebanese) National Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne to finish and we are leaving in a period of relative calm."

A military spokesman for the French force said it had accomplished four practical achievements despite the collapse of the government it supported.

They were:

- Supervising the evacuation of Palestinian fighters in August/September 1982 after the Israeli siege of Beirut.
- Facilitating exchanges of prisoners between rival groups.
- Removing mines along the Green Line.
- Guaranteeing the Green Line "museum crossing" for the past nearly two months.

"France for its part fulfilled its mission," he said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
MAIN CHANNEL	639, 720, 1413 KHz
16:30 News	06:00 Newsday 06:30 The Back Family
17:00 News	06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections
17:30 Children Programme	07:00 World News 07:00 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30
18:30 Tom Sawyer	Short Takes 07:45 Letter from America
19:30 Programme Review	08:00 Newsday 08:30 Jazz for the Aak-
20:00 Local Programme	08:45 World News 08:50 News About Britain 09:15 From Our Own
20:30 News in Arabic	Correspondent 09:30 The Seven Deadly
21:30 Wrestling	Sins 09:50 Recording of the Week 10:00
22:15 Arabic Series	World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15
23:00 Arabic Series	The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News
23:30 Science Report	11:00 British Press Review 11:15 Science
23:45 Series Continued	in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15
FOREIGN CHANNEL	Classical Record Review 12:30
17:30 French Programme	Religious Service 13:00 World News
18:00 News in French	13:00 News About Britain 13:15 Letter
19:15 Le Theatre de Bouvar	from America 13:30 Baker's Half
19:30 News in Hebrew	Dozen 14:00 Play of the Week 14:45
20:00 News in Arabic	Alma Korne's Rhythm and Blues
20:30 Tales of the Unexpected: Run	15:00 World News 15:00 Sports Round-
Rabbit	up 15:15 Good Books 15:30 Billy Budd
21:10 Napoleon and Love	15:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show
22:00 News in English	16:30 The Doctors 17:00 Radio New-
22:15 Best Seller — Return to Eden	scaster 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World
RADIO JORDAN	News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 From
853 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM	our own Correspondent 18:35 Financial
& partly on 950 KHz. SW	Review 18:45 Letter from America
07:00 Light Music	19:00 World News 19:00 Meridian 19:40
07:30 Newsday	Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up
08:00 Morning Show	20:00 Newsday 20:30 Pop The Question
08:30 News Summary	21:00 After Hours 21:15 Radio
09:00 Morning Show	Theatre: A New Life in a New World
11:00 News Summary	22:30 World News 22:40 Commentary
12:00 Pop Session	22:50 Letterbox 23:30 Sunday Half-
12:45 Pop Session	Hour 23:00 I Know It's Here Som-
13:00 News Summary	ewhere 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours
14:00 News Bulletin	24:00 World News 00:00 Science in Ac-
14:10 News Bulletin	tion 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports
16:30 Instrumentals	Round-up 01:00 World News 01:00
18:00 Concert Hour	Commentary 01:15 Letter from Amer-
18:00 News Summary	ica 01:30 The Friday Murder
18:05 Old Favourites	VOICE OF AMERICA
18:30 News Summary	MW 1250, KHz 7200, 9505, 11740,
19:00 News Summary	11925 & 15210
19:30 Jazz Hour	06:00 VOA Morning: News on the
20:00 Date with a Star	hour; news summaries; daily business,
21:00 Evening Show	report, science and medicine, sports
21:55 News Summary	reports: VOA editorial and world and
22:00 Evening Show	U.S. opinion roundups; documentary
23:00 News Summary	analysis: Features 17:00 News 17:10
23:05 Evening Show	News Horizons and New Products 17:30
24:00 News Headlines	Special English News and Features 18:00

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	AMMAN AIRPORT
EXHIBITIONS	This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53707, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.
* Paintings by Ayad Al Nimr at the Alia Art Gallery.	ARRIVALS
* Jordanian paintings and stamps at the British Council.	07:05 Cairo (MS)
* The International Manuscripts exhibition by the Department of Libraries, Documentation and National Archives in co-operation with Austrian Embassy starts at the Royal Cultural Centre.	08:05 Amman (RJ)
* Exhibition of projects in Jordan by the British Institute for Archaeology and History at the Amra Hotel.	09:05 Amman (RJ)
LECTURE	09:45 Doha (RJ)
"Science, Technology and Economic Development in a Changing World," by Prof. Elhan Fattil, Pakistan Ambassador in Jordan at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Jordan at 4:00 p.m.	10:40 Doha (RJ)
CULTURAL CENTRES	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	10:40 Doha (RJ)
American Centre Tel. 44371	10:40 Doha (RJ)
American Centre Library Tel. 41520	10:40 Doha (RJ)
British Council Tel. 36147-8	10:40 Doha (RJ)
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Goethe Institute Tel. 41993	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24049	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 665195	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Husseini Youth City Tel. 667181	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 41793	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664251	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111	10:40 Doha (RJ)
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555	10:40 Doha (RJ)
MUSEUMS	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 5176.	10:40 Doha (RJ)
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crusader Hill).	10:40 Doha (RJ)
PRAYER TIMES	10:40 Doha (RJ)
04:00 Fair	10:40 Doha (RJ)
05:24 Sunrise	10:40 Doha (RJ)
11:41 Dhuhr	10:40 Doha (RJ)
15:13 Asr	10:40 Doha (RJ)
17:56 Maghreb	10:40 Doha (RJ)
19:20 Isha	10:40 Doha (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53707, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05	Cairo (MS)
08:05	Amman (RJ)
09:05	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:50	Damascus (RJ)
09:50	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:40	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:40	Tripoli, Larana (LV)
10:40	Kuwait (RJ)
15:00	Jeddah (SV)
15:30	Cairo (RJ)
17:00	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
17:55	London, Paris (RJ)
18:00	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
20:05	Cairo (MS)
20:20	Algeria (OA)
20:40	Damascus (RJ)
00:30	Cairo (RJ)
00:45	Baghdad (RJ)
01:00	London (BA)
01:05	Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

05:10	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:05	Cairo (RJ)
08:05	Amman (RJ)
08:00	Damascus, Paris (MS)
08:05	Cairo (MS)
11:50	Cairo (RJ)
12:15	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
15:50	Larnaca, Tripoli (LV)
15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
16:40	Jeddah (SV)
19:30	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:40	Jeddah (RJ)
19:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:45	Damascus (RJ)
19:50	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15	Baghdad (RJ)
20:30	Cairo (RJ)
21:05	Cairo (MS)
21:15	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
21:15	Bangkok (RJ)
02:05	Cairo (MS)
02:15	London (BA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Amman port on 31/3/1984:

— Kora Sejati
— Anzaly
— Ibn Elmotaz
— Al Zahra
— Mera
— Alfa 2
— Ruzhany

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MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jds	
Belgian franc	69.31 / 69.7
Dutch guilder	126.1 / 126.8
Egyptian pound	312 / 316
French franc	46 / 46.3
Irish dollar	35 / 36.1
Italian lire (for 100)	22.8 / 23
Japanese yen (for 100)	163.7 / 164.7
Kuwaiti dinar	1258 / 1262.6
Libanese lira	66.3 / 67.2
Omani rial	106.6 / 107.1
Qatari rial	101.1 / 101.7
Saudi rial	104.6 / 105
Swedish crown	47.7 / 48
Sri Lanka	172 / 172.1
Syrian lira	53.6 / 54.1
UAE dirham	100.2 / 101.1
U.K. sterling pound	529.4 / 532.6
U.S. dollar	367.5 / 369.5
W. German mark	143.2 / 143.1

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with northwesterly moderate winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperatures in deg. C	
Amman	10/22
Agaba	15/27
Desert	9/24
Jordan Valley	13/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Agaba 28. Humidity ranges: Amman 35 per cent, Agaba 5 per cent.

Exiled mayor seeks closer Jordanian-Palestinian relations

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

Arab summit call

AMMAN — A leading West Bank leader Friday urged for the consolidation of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and called on the Palestine National Council (PNC) to convene soon to resolve inter-Palestinian differences.

Fahd Qawasmeh, mayor of Hebron, who has been exiled by the Israeli occupation authorities, said "the Palestinian and Jordanian relations should be consolidated on a solid basis in consistency with the interests of both peoples."

Speaking at a rally held in Amman to mark the eighth anniversary of Land Day, Mr. Qawasmeh said that relations between both peoples should be strengthened "to enhance their resistance (against the Israeli occupation) and steadfastness."

He also called for the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and for an urgent session of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament in exile. "The PNC should meet as soon as possible to resolve inter-Palestinian differences," he said, referring to differences that emanated from a mutiny within Fatah, the biggest Palestinian commando group, against the leadership of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and which were widened after the PLO leader's unexpected visit to Cairo last December.

Mr. Arafat is pressing towards the convening of the PNC in Algiers soon.

Mr. Qawasmeh also called for an early Arab summit, which was supposed to have been held in Saudi Arabia last March but was postponed to an unspecified date. "The Arab summit should be held to emphasise and implement its previous resolutions and not to adopt new ones," Mr. Qawasmeh said. He was apparently referring to an Arab peace plan that was adopted at the last Arab summit in Morocco in 1982 which called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and implicitly recognised Israel.

The Palestinian leader also said that "Arabs should reach a minimum level of agreement" and called for immediate settlement to inter-Arab differences.



Fahd Qawasmeh

Fieldtrips, lectures fill April archaeology plans

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Mesha's Campaigns", at 7:00 p.m., April 28, at the Goethe Institute.

AMMAN — Fieldtrips and lectures once again dominate this month's activities of the Friends of Archaeology, with a heavy accent on sites outside Jordan.

On April 3, Mr. Warwick Ball will lecture on "The Antiquities of Afghanistan", at 7:00 p.m., at the British Institute of Archaeology.

On April 16, Professor Siegfried Mittman of Tuebingen University will lecture on "The Topography of the Battle of Qadesh on the Orontes", at 7:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute.

The third lecture of the month will be delivered by Dr. Axel Knauf, director of the German Archaeological Institute in Amman. He will talk about "King

The first fieldtrip of the month is on April 6, departing at 8:30 a.m. from the Department of Antiquities registration centre. Dr. Jonathan Tubb of the British Museum will lead a trip to Tell Umm Hamad in the Jordan Valley, where he is excavating a Late Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age cemetery.

The April 20-27 fieldtrip to the Sinai is fully booked, but you can get on the waiting list by calling Dr. Adriana Hopper at 673-489.

On May 1, Dr. Axel Knauf will lead a trip to the biblical and early Arab sites between Wadi Mujib and Wadi Walla. Departure at 8:30 a.m. from the registration centre. More information from Dr. Knauf at 842924.



ROMANTIC NIGHT: The Linos Ensemble from West Germany who delighted the audience at the Royal Cultural Centre here Saturday night with a performance of romantic and classical music (J.T. file photo)

48-hour smoking cure starts today

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

Mind and body

AMMAN — Jordanian smokers desiring to kick the habit are in luck. An expert on the subject is here to help them by means of the "48-hour plan" to stop smoking.

The plan employs four sessions of group therapy combining lectures, films, discussions and audience participation under the leadership of Dr. Albert Faradi, of the International No Smoking Association.

Dr. Faradi, a Lebanese American, has come from the association's Washington headquarters to hold the course at four different locations in Amman.

The schedule is April 1-4 at 4:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre and at 6:00 p.m. at the University of Jordan; April 7-11 at 4:00 p.m. at the Regency Palace Hotel and at 6:00 p.m. at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. Each session will last one and a half hours.

At each session the participants will be given a personal control sheet to show them everything they should do for the next 48 hours period.

"Disintoxication of the body is made through the use of water, oxygen, fruits, juices and exercise, while disintoxication of the mind is made through education," Dr. Faradi said. He stressed that participants should attend all four sessions.

"Smoking is a neuro-muscular habit and so we attack the habit: First of all then we clean the body of all poisons while strengthening the will power," Dr. Faradi said.

Nicotine attacks the heart, causing 80 per cent of heart attacks according to the American Cancer Society studies quoted by Dr. Faradi. He also pointed out that very few non-smokers have lung cancer but "almost all the victims are smokers".

Dr. Faradi said that studies also show that whole 95 per cent of smokers started smoking before they were 20 years of age. 80 per cent of smokers would like to stop by the time they reach between 35 and 40 years old, "but they are trapped," the expert added.

The "48-hour plan" was developed in 1962 in Washington

after the publication of studies on tobacco made by the U.S. government's space research programme, according to Dr. Faradi. The studies first brought to public attention the damage that smoking could cause to the human body.

'100 years old'

The International No Smoking Association was founded about 100 years ago as an organisation against the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The "48-hour plan" courses are offered free to the public. The courses have been held throughout the world and in the Middle East in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait and Egypt. Surveys carried out in the U.S. showed that 85 per cent of those who attended the courses stopped smoking, Dr. Faradi said.

The plan is most popular in the U.S. and Canada, but it has also filled auditoria with a capacity of 3,500 in Italy and other countries. Its success in Italy gave it front-page headlines in several major newspapers there, Dr. Faradi added.

Agricultural engineers body elects new board

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association (JAEA) Friday elected a new board to serve for a two-year term.

The new board chairman is Ghassan Qamhawi, who clinched 266 votes against the 239 votes which went to his main rival Tarq Tal.

The vice-chairman is Isam Naser who won 295 votes as against 228 votes won by his rival Farouk Sharaiah.

The other five members of the

board are: Mustafa Jarrair, Abdul Rahman Ghaith, Fuad Saleemeh, Abdul Majid Abu Rumman and Miss Nahidah Al Sayes.

It was the first time that a woman has been elected to the JAEA board although women agricultural engineers abound in Jordan.

The new board was elected from 16 candidates who were organised into three slates in what ended up as a close-fought election. Miss Sayes however did not belong to any of the blocs.

On March 23 the JAEA held the election but the results were considered null and void because 523 votes were cast in the ballot boxes even though the number of engineers eligible to cast their votes was 519.

In that election Mr. Qamhawi also came first, gaining 225 votes whereas his rival, Tarq Tal received 222 votes.

As the election fell on "Land Day", the outgoing board Chairman Suleiman Arabyat paid tribute to the martyrs who fell in Palestine in their struggle to defend the Arab territory.

Those who took part in Friday's election were only those who had paid up their subscription fees by March 23.

Altogether 519 engineers took part in the Friday's election out of the 1,200 agricultural engineers in the country at present.

A speaker for the committee which supervised the election said that the JAEA board had sent cables to Arab leaders calling on them to extend support and assistance to agricultural engineers in the occupied Arab regions in order to enhance their steadfastness in the face of Israel's repressive measures.

The board also called for the establishment of a special fund to

Conference on eradication of malaria opens here

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni Saturday opened a 12-day symposium on ways to combat and eradicate malaria.

The symposium, which is being organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in co-operation with the Ministry of Health, includes representatives from 12 countries in the Middle East including five experts from WHO.

The delegates are from Afghanistan, Bahrain, South Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Syria.

Dr. Ajlouni, at the opening session, stressed the importance of planning and execution and the co-operation of the various sectors such as the Ministries of Agriculture, and Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment.

Dr. Ajlouni called for more symposia and seminars related to the eradication of disease and pointed out that malaria has been totally eradicated from Jordan. "Presently efforts are being focused on preventing it from coming back because the disease still exists in neighbouring countries as well as in countries participating at the conference," he said.

At the opening session a message from Dr. Hussein Gezairy, director of WHO Eastern Mediterranean region addressed to the "Workshop for the Improvement of Malaria Control Through Applied Field Research" was read by Dr. Luciano Finaide Delfini, WHO regional malaria adviser and secretary of the workshop.

In an interview with one of Jordan's representatives at the conference, Dr. Mohammad Rida, the director of the malaria and bilharziasis department at the ministry, he said that Jordan was chosen to be the host country for the conference "because it is the only country in the Middle East that has eradicated malaria completely."

Dr. Rida added that since the year 1970, there has been no reported cases in the country but "still we are continuing our operational activities which includes surveillance, residual house spraying, larviciding as well as laboratory and entomological activities."

These operational activities are being continued, he said, because

of the critical geographical situation which does not allow us completely to rest "keeping in mind that we have no less than 200,000 people entering Jordan annually from other countries."

At airports and ports of entry, Jordan examines blood samples and, if any case proves positive, the people concerned are immediately put under treatment.

Dr. Rida said that not less than 400-500 malarial cases are discovered every year.

"The duration of the treatment of these people depends on the species of malaria," he explained. Giving examples, Dr. Rida said that vivax malaria takes two weeks of treatment though the falciparum species takes only five days at the maximum.

On the transmission of malaria from one person to another, Dr. Rida said that it goes in a cycle which requires an infected person and the presence of the vector mosquito and a healthy man.

Dr. Rida said that malaria is endemic in all participating countries at the conference.

On the aim of the conference, Dr. Rida said that the main goal is to discuss the problems involved in trying to eradicate malaria in each of the participant countries and to discuss the research work which has been done by the participants and the WHO experts.

U.N. team briefed on worsening health conditions in occupied Arab territories

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud Saturday informed a United Nations mission now on a visit to Jordan about the deteriorating health conditions in the occupied Arab lands and the oppressive measures exercised by the Israeli authorities against the Arab doctors under their rule.

The mission, which arrived here Friday evening to investigate the health conditions prevailing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, was told by the minister that Israel has closed four hospitals in the occupied territories since 1967.

These hospitals used to offer medical treatment and health services to needy people in Jerusalem and the neighbouring region, the minister said.

The existing hospitals, he said, lack proper equipment, specialists and nurses, and therefore the standard of their services has declined.

Before the 1967 war, there were 10,270 beds in West Bank hospitals, but this had dropped to 1,973 by 1981, the minister said.

He added that Arab physicians and specialists are receiving meagre salaries and have to face continual persecution at the hands of the Israelis which prompts many of them to abandon their work.

In addition, the minister said, the Israelis impose heavy customs duty on imported medical equipment in a bid to prevent West Bank hospitals from benefiting from advanced medical services.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug smugglers locked up

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Jordanian citizens, Mahmoud Hafez Najm Qube'iyeh and Mohammad Rashed As'ad Al Lama', were sentenced to 10 years in prison with hard labour and fined JD 5,000 each after being found guilty of trafficking drugs. Another citizen, Ali Saleem Rashed, was sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined JD 50 for the same offense. The sentences were endorsed by the General Military Governor as passed by the Military Court.

King Talal Dam filling up

JERASH (Petra) — Water stored behind the King Talal Dam has reached a volume of 29 million cubic metres. Jerash District Governor Fayez Abbadi said that the average quantity of water pouring into the dam reached six cubic metres per second during the period of heavy rains in March. The volume of water stored behind the dam last winter reached 54 million cubic metres which is the dam's full capacity.

Local councils get infrastructure loans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has agreed to grant loans amounting to JD 101,000 to five local village councils to carry out a number of projects. The funds will be used to finance the building of shops and new roads and as well as putting in street lighting.

Minced beef prices changed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply, Mr. Ibrahim Ayyoub, has specified new prices for imported frozen minced beef. According to this, one kilogramme wholesale from Supply Ministry stores will now cost JD 1.080 which will sell at the retail price of JD 1.200.

FOR RENT

One second-floor deluxe apartment with three bedrooms, salon, living and dining rooms, two bathrooms, and three verandas (one glassed-in) with central heating and telephone. Location: Shmeisani, between the Professional Associations Complex and Ambassador Hotel (near the centres pool from the back street).

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Austrian-made facsimile show reproduces medieval, Oriental and Mexican manuscripts

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A very unusual exhibition opened at the Royal Cultural Centre this week — that of facsimile editions of medieval, Oriental and Mexican manuscripts. Organised by the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jordanian Department of Documentation, Libraries and Archives, the exhibition comprises around 30 facsimiles — that is the complete reproduction of the original manuscript in its actual size and colour true to the original down to the smallest detail — of ancient manuscripts the originals of which are kept in the safes of important libraries all over the world.

The first four facsimiles have been taken from the pages of some of the earliest known books on medicine. The most beautiful of these, with its delicate drawings of herbal plants, is the "Vienna Dioscorides", dated around 512, which up to the beginning of modern times provided the most important basis for pharmacology. More gruesome are the drawings taken from Abul Qasim Halaf Ibn Abbas Al Zahrafi's book on surgery (dating from the second half of the 14th century) which graphically depicts a doctor, complete with turban, treating his patients with what looks to be a form of acupuncture — the pain of which, must have been excruciating judging from the agonised expressions on the patients' faces. Although the Arabs based

their knowledge of medicine on the information they alone preserved from the ancient Greeks, they developed their own form of surgery and Abul Qasim's book was considered to be the most important manual on the subject for more than 500 years.

Theological manuscripts

Many beautifully illuminated pages from theological manuscripts — the oldest dating back to a time prior to 795 — have also been reproduced the exquisite miniatures showing many scenes from the life of Christ. The miniatures in the secular manuscripts however deal with a variety of subjects, from the illustration of the work of Virgil (taken from the Vergilius Varianus dating from the end of the 4th century) to

with its faded ink, brown fringed hand cut pages and old rather battered cover, one would think it was indeed the original which is kept in the Austrian National Library in Vienna. Copies like this are typical of the work of the publishing house that made all the facsimiles at this exhibition the Akademische Druck-u. Verlagsanstalt in Austria, whose aim is to reproduce the most important manuscripts of the past in exact facsimile editions to make them available to scholars and bibliophiles all over the world.

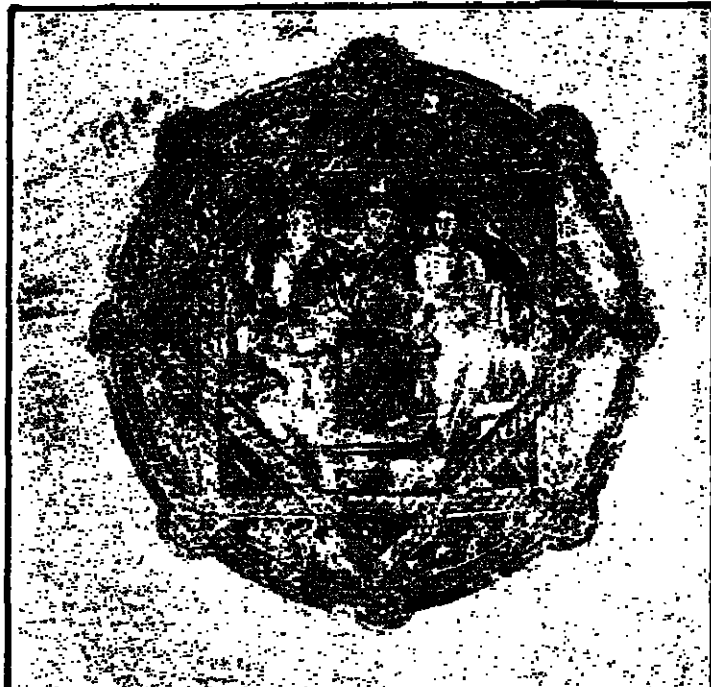
The last few sections of the exhibition show facsimiles of pages from Oriental manuscripts — one of which is the enormous and very beautiful book on Amir Hamza (dating from around 1579) which in its original state consisted of about 1400 leaves in 14 volumes — and from Latin American manuscripts. These latter, with their strange amalgamated, angular people with bird-like heads and hats of entangled snakes are fascinatingly modern in character although they date right back to the 14th century.

ART REVIEW

books containing rare collections of patterns of figurative and ornamental art (Reiner Musterbuch, from the first half of the 13th century) to Gaston Phoebus' "Le Livre de la Chasse" (dating from the beginning of the 15th century) whose wonderful miniatures show all the different forms a hunt can take. The men and animals in these scenes are depicted in great detail, care being taken to make them extremely realistic, an accuracy that is accentuated by the beautiful, yet strange background of rich wallpaper — like patterns.

Beethoven score

Perhaps one of the most interesting manuscripts at the exhibition is the facsimile of the handwritten score of the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D, Major, Op. 61 by Ludwig van Beethoven. A facsimile edition of the whole work is on display and seeing it



Motif from the Vienna Dioscorides, one of the facsimile manuscripts currently being displayed in the week-long exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (J.T. file photo)

DR. ZAFER KAYALI
M.D., FAAP
Paediatrics

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Jordan Times

An Independent Arab Political Daily Published by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
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America's new slavery

THE NEW York State primary elections are always a spectacle of some sadness in America, where the presidential aspirants throw all wisdom, morality and sanity to the wind and try to outdo one another for the large Jewish vote of the state. In terms of American electoral politics, it is perhaps understandable. A fellow who wants to get elected has to pander to the crowd, and in New York State the crowd is disproportionately Jewish, with strong concerns about Israel and the Middle East. So Mr. Mondale and Mr. Hart furiously proclaim in increasingly louder voices that they are the best friends of the people of Israel since Abraham. They would move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem even before they take the oath of office of president of the United States. They would probably, if allowed, prohibit any American citizen from using the word "Palestinian" within a 200-kilometre zone around the United States. They would do many other things to win the New York primary, and to watch them reach ever greater heights of blind partisanship is one of the sorry aspects of electioneering in America. If you have ever wondered about the weak point of Western democracy, this is it.

We are struck not only by the pitiful performance of Messrs. Mondale and Hart in New York, but also by the remarkable contrast to them offered by the third Democratic candidate, the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Of course, he has little chance of winning the Democratic nomination — perhaps because he is an honest fellow who advocates American policies in the rest of the world that are in the national interest of the entire American people, and that also adhere to America's long tradition of ethics and morality.

We have been heartened by his calls for Arabs and Jews to recognise each other's sufferings, and to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict by agreeing to security and freedom for both Israeli and Palestinian states. "Learning to live together is the greatest challenge of the human race," he recently told an Arab-American audience.

While the Reverend Jackson has spoken out on the Middle East in honourable terms, his rivals, Messrs. Hart and Mondale have kicked off their shoes and danced for the crowds in a most demeaning manner. How ironic: The American black man is free, while Messrs. Hart and Mondale are chained in the new slavery that grips American politics.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Europe has two options

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein extended a new invitation through the statements he gave to journalists in Aqaba to all European countries, including Britain, to play a more positive role for the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East.

King Hussein explained that true peace in our region is a requirement for world peace because problems facing the region influence the world and world peace.

No need to remind the European countries that they are now facing two choices: Either to leave developments for a sinking American role in the region with all its negative implications or to translate their stance towards the Palestinian problem into real action that overpasses the issuing of statements contribute to holding an international conference in which all concerned parties should take part to find a just solution for the problem.

It should be confirmed that European states cannot adopt a third choice. Their hesitation in committing themselves to a positive alternative will weaken the chances for the achievement of peace in the region and will increase the dangers threatening it, which will inevitably affect world peace.

Al Dustour: Land Day meant a lot

ON THE 8th anniversary of the Land Day, the people of the occupied Arab territories, while renewing expression of their attachment to their land, recalled a rare bright image in the long Arab night, and drew with their lifted fists the features of inevitable dawn on this region, which had repelled all previous invaders and has remained Arab in face, qualities and aroma.

Through the Galilee commemoration rallies, those of Al Muthallath and Al Naqab, and the protests and marches in the West Bank on Friday, the Arabs of the occupied territories proved not only the greatness of their attachment to their homeland and their willingness to defend it against repeated Zionist assault for confiscating it, but also reflected the immortal truth in struggle against invaders, which never dies as long as there are those who claim it.

We, along with all Arab people, salute our Palestinian Arab brothers on Land Day and all days of our noble struggle. At the same time, we renew the vow that we will stay together until the land is freed from the invaders, until right is given to its owners and until the sun of a glorious Arab day rises.

Sawt Al Shaab: Jordan's free choice

DURING A Press conference on Friday, His Majesty King Hussein replied to a question on Jordan's purchase of British arms and said that the subject was not discussed in the Jordanian-British talks, and added that Jordan has many choices in this regard.

Jordan is distinguished by its good and strong relations with most countries of the world. This enables Jordan to have all kinds of relations with these countries, including the purchase of arms. Jordan enjoys a good international reputation, and this is why there is no excuse for any country to refuse selling it arms. Therefore, it is amazing that the United States has refused to sell arms to Jordan. Zionist influence might direct U.S. policy towards Arabs in this aspect, but does Zionist influence specify Arabs' policy towards themselves?

As a nation we have financial abilities envied by many others. However, these nations do not envy us our political or military condition. So the storm stirred up about arms which Jordan had wished to buy from the U.S. should not have been raised had there been a form of Arab defensive integration.

Yet, Jordan could build its defences and maintain development in all fields, and it will overcome all difficulties and get its requirements... the choices we have are plentiful.

Amman stock exchange — why the intervention?

By Fahed Fanek

LESS THAN a month ago, the Central Bank of Jordan issued an order to all commercial banks that before Dec. 31, 1984 their portfolios should include shares in Jordanian companies the market value of which should not be less than 15 per cent of the paid-up capital and general reserves of each bank.

Some businessmen have welcomed this order as an effective way of influencing the present "depressed" prices in Amman Financial Market, and restoring the confidence of small investors.

The prices in the stock exchange did respond to this unexpected step, because some JD 5 to 7 million of fresh money will be pumped into the demand side. The prices soared in the following two weeks by an average of four per cent. Further rise was hoped, but the prices bounced back to square one in the third week and lost in one week what was gained in

the previous two.

Some policy-makers are under the impression that higher prices in the stock exchange is good for the economy; they are tempted to influence these prices upwards.

Jordan's economy is healthy, and the manufacturing and services corporations are sound. The fluctuations in the prices of their shares in the market reflect local, Arab and international developments.

The decline of prices by 17 per cent over the whole of 1983 should not worry the government, because the prices are still fair and reasonable, taking into consideration that they have soared by more than that percentage during the bonanza of 1981/1982. If anyone thinks that the present prices are too low, and that the shares are undervalued, then he should rush to buy as much shares as he can afford!

Raising the prices in Amman Financial Market needs the

halting of the Iranian aggression, stopping the Gulf war, normalising political life in Lebanon, ending the civil war there, increasing Arab financial aid to Jordan, strong recovery of the international economy, reversing the present financial contraction in the Gulf states, and opening new markets for Jordanian exports of goods and services etc... which are not under our control.

Although most economic commentators are looking at the order of the Central Bank from the stock exchange point of view, I think that this is not correct. Influencing the prices of shares is not one of the duties of the Central Bank. And if that was the purpose of the order, it is evident now that it did not work.

I believe that the Central Bank order was not addressed to the problem of shares prices, but to the form of investments

of the banks.

Paragraph (B) of Article (44) of the Central Bank Law authorises the bank to issue orders to the licensed banks to dictate their investments inside Jordan and abroad.

The favourable side-effect on the prices of shares, which lasted for two weeks, must be an unintentional by-product of the order.

The Central Bank must have banking or economic reasons to order the banks to buy more shares, these reasons were never explained to the public.

In this respect, we note that the liquidity of the banks, which will be allocated to acquire the compulsory shares, will be used at the expense of credit facilities that could otherwise be extended to the commercial, industrial and tourist sectors.

Public interest will be more served by financing the production units, and not by buy-

ing their shares from their present shareholders.

The practical result of the order is to transfer part of the liquidity that could be lent to companies in favour of speculators or deserting investors. There is no reason to believe that speculators or investors selling out, or forsaking their companies, will use the funds in a manner more beneficial to the national economy than the banks would.

The step may be more meaningful if the banks were required to subscribe in future share issues when offered to the public, because this means an addition to the investments. The mere buying of shares from other shareholders is not an investment from the national economy point of view. It is just like buying and selling real estate, and does not create a new wealth or production capacity.

It is known that most Jor-

danian banks already own more shares than the minimum required by the Central Bank; therefore, the order will affect only the foreign banks which — by law — are not allowed to acquire shares in Jordanian companies except after a specific approval by the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers does encourage foreign capital to finance new industrial, agricultural, or touristic projects, but they do not encourage the transfer of shares of established companies from Jordanian shareholders to foreign shareholders, especially when the latter will be using Jordanian capital to buy and control Jordanian companies.

As far as the stock exchange is concerned, hands off is the best policy to be adopted, and policy-makers should influence the temperature of the economy not the barometer measuring that temperature.



'Peace Camp' women prepare defences

By Dorothee Jung
Reporter

GREENHAM COMMON, England — "They won't get rid of us. We'll throw ourselves in front of the bulldozers," promises a soft-spoken woman at the threatened "peace camp."

Rebecca Johnson is just one of hundreds of women determined to defy an eviction order that could spell the end for Europe's most stubbornly entrenched anti-nuclear protest camp.

"Whatever happens, we stay," she insists.

For two and a half years, the Greenham Common women have kept vigil outside this American Air Force base near Newbury in southern England to demonstrate against the siting of new U.S. nuclear cruise missiles on British soil.

Sometimes numbering thousands, the protesting women have repeatedly cut through or climbed over the base's 14 kilometre perimeter fence — exposing its tight security — and resisted attempts to evict them.

But the authorities are fast losing patience.

The Transport Ministry last week won a local court order to clear the area of the original peace

camp outside the base's busy main gate by next Monday (April 2) for a road widening scheme.

Ms. Johnson, who has lived here for 20 months and was one of three who broke into the base's unmanned air traffic control tower in December, cancelled a three-week speaking tour in California to fight the eviction.

"We've planted rows of flower beds next to the fence," she says. "We're not leaving before they bloom."

The base's heavily-fortified main gate is one of nine entrances at which the women have set up their "benders", ingenious igloo-shaped tents made of branches, blankets and plastic sheeting.

The main camp has its own postal address and the women receive sacks of mail and money from all over the world.

Its population fluctuates from a hard core of about 80 during the week to several hundred over the weekend. At the height of their protests, they have had as many as 30,000 demonstrators converge on the common.

"But few people stay for long. Most of them come to say hello or bring fresh eggs or fruit," one Irish woman says.

Braving the cold huddled aro-

und a fire and clutching mugs of steaming tea, women of all ages, professions and background exchange their Greenham experiences.

Many of them have been arrested during protest actions and spent brief spells in prison after refusing to pay fines.

The women say their presence has snarled plans to secretly practise deployment of the single-warhead missiles in readiness for times of international tension. The first of the 160 cruise missiles to be deployed in Britain at Greenham and one other base, arrived here by air in November.

The women vowed to stop the missiles leaving the base. But earlier this month, the first launch vehicle convoy slipped past the women for a night exercise.

Every night, two or three women keep watch under the glare of the floodlights along the airfield's barbed-wire fences, briefed to scream and shout to wake the camp if they see any fresh attempt to stage a deployment exercise. Others would rush to contact supporters and newspapers.

Relations with guards on the other side of the fence, who were strongly re-inforced following the women's early success in pen-

etrating the base, are not good. Some guards laugh and jeer.

Last week, a British newspaper reported that U.S. airmen at the base dropped their trousers and exposed their buttocks to two visitors they mistook for members of the peace camp.

"It's crazy. It shouldn't be us and them," says one new arrival from Sweden who plans to stay a week. "I'm really afraid of what will happen to us. But I'm more afraid of the rockets."

Newbury's Conservative-controlled council has been making strenuous efforts to get rid of the women, regarded by many people as illegal squatters.

"We respect the women's right to protest, but they're making a complete mess of the Common," Council Spokesman Ken Page said.

Three weeks ago, about 1,000 of Newbury's 30,000 residents launched a campaign to lobby authorities to remove the women.

John Leary, a spokesman for the RAGE (ratepayers against Greenham encampments) campaign, vented his anger: "Let's face it, we are not talking about peace women, we are talking about a bunch of anarchists, Marxists, Trotskyists."

FDJ former chairman rises to E. German top

By Paul Bolding
Reporter

EAST BERLIN — East German Communist leader Erich Honecker now has 47-year-old Egon Krenz as his heir, although all signs suggest that he remains fully in control.

Mr. Krenz, the youngest member of the 25-man politburo, has had a meteoric rise through the party ranks with a career that matches that of Mr. Honecker himself.

Western diplomats and East German officials say the importance and frequency of Mr. Krenz's public appearances in recent months make it clear that he is the chosen one.

One western diplomatic analyst of East German affairs said Mr. Honecker may well give up the reins of power when he reaches the age of 75, in four years' time, to ensure a tidy succession.

This theory is based on private statements by East German officials following the death of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev after a long illness. They said the East German leader was concerned to avoid the uncertainty that surrounded the Soviet leadership at that time.

While there would be some opposition from older politburo members to Mr. Krenz taking over now because of his limited experience, Mr. Honecker would be able to overcome this later.

Mr. Krenz is not Mr. Honecker's first heir-apparent — Mr. Werner Lamberz, a talented young Africa expert in the politburo, was killed in a helicopter crash in Libya in 1978.

Guenter Mittag, 57 and Mr. Honecker's economy man in the politburo, is apparently his first choice to succeed 69-year-old Willi Stoph as prime minister, diplomats said.

Besides Mr. Stoph and Volkmar (parliament) President Horst Sindermann, only Mr. Krenz and Mr. Mittag accompany Mr. Honecker to Mos-

cow for the funeral of Soviet President Yuri Andropov last month.

Mr. Krenz was promoted to full membership of the politburo from being chairman of the Communist Free German Youth (FDJ) organisation last November and was given responsibility for internal and external security matters within the policymaking politburo secretariat.

Mr. Honecker has been pursuing closer ties since the beginning of the year and is expected to visit Bonn in September.

The FDJ, of which Mr. Honecker himself was the first chairman, plays a major role in the Communist state because it conducts the political education of the young.

The promotion of Mr. Krenz from the FDJ chairmanship to the politburo apparently means he was thought to have done a good job with the young people, many of whom are exposed to Western media and question the socialist system.

Mr. Krenz oozes confidence and in a rare spontaneous grilling by Western reporters in January showed he was a man who could think on his feet. He is one of East Germany's best public speakers.

Born in 1937 in what is now Poland, Mr. Krenz began his political career, following military service, as an FDJ functionary on the Baltic island of Rügen and later in the port of Rostock.

He spent three years at the Soviet Communist Party High School — he now speaks good Russian — and returned from there in 1967 to take charge of agitation and propaganda in the FDJ, becoming its leader in 1974.

As a man in his forties his leadership of the youth organisation had come in for ridicule among some of the Communist state's less respectful young people.

Mr. Krenz also has a reputation as a ruthless executor of Communist policy and some diplomats question whether he would retain the measure of respect that Mr. Honecker has, even among the country's non-Communists.

LETTERS

Subtly-expressed position

To the Editor:

His Majesty King Hussein's statement to the New York Times is still receiving a great deal of interest in the world's capitals. It is being studied and analysed carefully in order to ascertain its implications.

The King made a courageous and frank statement regarding his position and frustration with the U.S. policy towards the Middle East.

Jordan's position has always attached special importance to the undertakings that came out of the U.S. Capitol. These promises and undertakings have given some hope for an evenhanded policy. However, Washington kept retracting, dismembering and frequently conflicting.

The U.S. attitude towards Jordan seems to take much for granted and treats its position as one subordinate to that which forgetting that Jordan has a clear-cut position based on firm grasp of the complexity of the situation and the issues involved. It is not tinted glass but is based rather on a clear understanding of the hopes and aspirations of the people.

It is also a view which takes into consideration the long-term rather than the immediate selfish interests of certain pressure groups. In a situation dominated by short-term interests it takes substantial courage to tell your friends and enemies what you think of them and where such policies could lead to.

By contrast, the reactions from White House officials to this courageous position seem to lack courage and are tainted by partisan interests and emotionalism in an election year.

The Jordanian situation has always and consistently been true and reflected long-term interests related to historical facts as seen by the people, who are deeply involved with these facts. The American situation seems to be inconsistent and has often been neutralised by different and conflicting pressure groups.

Samih Tawfik Toukan,
Amman.

Handwritten note: *السلامة في*

An alchemy that has made it almost come true in Jordan

By C.V. Mohan

AMMAN—Gold, gold, gold! It is really gold, 99.999 per cent gold, exclaimed two scientists — one Indian, and the other Jordanian, who were recently experimenting on a copper extracting project in Karak.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the Indian scientist, Mr. Ajoy Gosh said, "I have tried almost every trade from meat export to man-power to the Gulf countries. But, unfortunately, I ended up in bankruptcy. I did not even know how to manage my family of four. I was very upset and thought to relax for a while at a beach in Bombay. I was completely lost in thoughts about my future."

"Suddenly one old white-haired and bearded man, apparently a yogi (saint) from the Himalayas, sat next to me, and started enquiring about my career and the cause of my disappointment. Even though I was not interested in his questions, some sort of a supernatural power of his look forced me to tell my story."

After a brief smile the yogi told me, "Look my son, this is the world, you should face the bitter and better, so don't lose your hopes. I suggest you try another time." Putting forward a bunch of old papers and saying here it is, he added: "This is the technical know-how for extracting copper from certain waste materials. The ideal place for this business will be Jordan, the Holy Land. Go ahead, don't look back," he ordered.

"Suddenly, I remembered one

of my old Jordanian friends, — Hanji Awwadin, a scientist working in Abu Dhabi. Without wasting much time, I looked up his telephone number and contacted him, gave him a brief idea of my concern and asked him to arrange for a visit to Jordan for working out a joint project. The very next week I received a telex from my friend asking me to contact the Kuwait Airways in Bombay for my airticket to visit Jordan. I arrived here at the beginning of last month and discussed the matter very seriously with my friend and he agreed to make a feasibility study. We did a very close scrutiny and found it possible and profitable.

"With all the technical know-how and the feasibility study, I and my friend approached the concerned Jordanian authorities for approval, which we got. We started collecting raw materials little by little and started our experiments."

"Our process is very old and ancient — a sort of boiling method — raw materials along with the necessary chemical components, were our trade secret which cannot be disclosed."

"We were carrying out the experiment in an open, secret and secluded place in Karak, when surprisingly, we noticed that lava was falling from a nearby plant under the heat of the chemical effluents. This was falling on a small stone instantly turning its colour into golden."

"This amazed us, so we picked up the stone and rushed to the Royal Scientific Society, where we met the head of the metallurgy

department and requested his co-operation in carrying out some tests.

"After a few tests, the department head told us we were really lucky, it was a fortune, it was gold — 24 karat gold weighing 1.5 kilograms. We could not believe it. So we called in a reliable goldsmith for further tests. After his tests, he declared it was a pure gold ingot."

"To make it sure, we sent a very small piece to one of the renowned laboratories in London for testing. Sunday evening a telex arrived saying it was gold, 24-karat gold."

On receiving London's confirmation, the two gold seekers rushed to Karak to make sure the magic plants were available in quantities. They made a thorough survey of the area and, to their joy, the precious herbs were abundantly available. "We will seek permission from the Ministry of Agriculture to grow the precious plant and start collecting the seedlings," the Jordanian partner said.

"At present, we will be able to produce at least 25 kilograms of gold a day, and in the near future it will reach a level of 100 kilograms a day. We will be holding a press conference soon on Jordan's gold-exports to international markets. This is an unexpected chance for your country to join the gold-producing and exporting world club," the Indian partner remarked.

"It is a day to celebrate. I am very proud Jordan has become a gold-producing country," Mr. Awwadin roared rubbing some cold sweat off his broad forehead.

Lebanese Australians: A long way to identify

By Dr. Ibrahim W. Ata

THE LEBANESE are one of very few national minorities whose early migration to the Australian continent began in the latter part of the nineteenth century. In the same instance, it should also be noted that the "Lebanese identity" in earlier times was far less defined than it is now. Unaware of their own country's historical development, and having migrated in small numbers as their counterparts did to the United States, the Lebanese were called, from the very beginning, "Syrians" (or occasionally "Assyrians") by Australian colonists (as indicated in the N.S.W. and Victorian parliamentary debates in the 1880s).

In ancient times, the term "syria" was used loosely to denote a territory much larger than the present state. Between 1936-1947 "Greater Lebanon" was annexed to Syria, as were Latakia (a district which is inhabited mainly by the "Alwites") and Jebel (Mount) Druze, before the two countries emerged as two independent nations in 1947.

By 1901, the colonial statisticians had agreed to show them quite separately from Turks in the statistics of race and usually of nationality, under the title "Syrian." (Interestingly, however, the "Lebanese" were not labelled as "fellow nationals", but as other Lebanese Christians of the same rite).

The second major problem, which made an accurate census impossible, is of course that the Armenian Lebanese migrants. This category was not as large as other "Christian Lebanese" migrants, as there were as many as 69,000 Armenians in Lebanon in 1958.

It is alleged that in 1882, Masud Al Nishbi, was the first Lebanese immigrant ever to arrive in Australia — by mistake, on an English

freighter heading for "overseas". At that time, the destination of passengers was determined by where the captain of the ship decided to anchor, which was usually on the east coast of the United States, but rarely Australia.

Philippe Hitti, the noted Arab historian, observes: "He who amassed the largest fortune in Australia was there two years before he realised he was not in Al-Nu-Yuk (New York), the shipping agent in Marseille having put him on the wrong boat."

The freighter arrived in Adelaide two months later, bringing "the stranger", who was antired in a typical Lebanese kftan and a fez, and was carrying with him a few metal crosses, scents and small religious statues. After a few days he made a profit of 60 pounds, and so returned to Lebanon in order to show his fortune to his relatives and to narrate to them "happy stories about the lucky country."

In the following year seven young Lebanese migrated on the same freighter. They chose "Broken Hill" as their first place of settlement, and took up harvesting as an occupation. During off seasons, they peddled needles, threads and candies between one town and another, and later on across the country.

Eventually, they became more adjusted to the country and sent for their women and children, realising that they could be more of an asset than a liability.

Against this background, one could deduce that those who elected to migrate were inspired by the desire to "collect the gold which covered the sidewalks". Like the Lebanese immigrants into the United States, those who came to Australia maintained their religious pride, family customs and traditional beliefs; they also maintained close links with the home country.

A period of consolidation

One of the most striking features of early Lebanese-Syrian immigration to Australia was the equal distribution of sexes among the arrivals in contrast to other minorities such as those from China, India and Italy. This may have relieved them from some of the hostilities that were directed to other migrant groups. During this period, prevalent Australian opinion condemned inter-marriage between Australians and male-dominated migrant communities. Another criticism that was levelled against these communities was due to the fact that their male members often remitted their earnings to their homeland.

By 1901, the Syrian-Lebanese community in Australia numbered approximately 1,720 — most of whom were born within what are now the boundaries of Lebanon. By 1911, the number had risen to 2,339 of which the male population constituted 56 per cent.

Undecided racial status

At this time the Syrian-Lebanese were prohibited from enjoying legal and social service benefits which British subjects enjoyed. Yarwood cites a letter which was delivered by the Secretary, Mr. Hunt, to the Minister of Immigration regarding the above matter: "...the question of how to deal with the Syrians has caused the department considerable difficulty. It will be remembered that the Act prohibits no nationalities or races by name... While there has been practically unanimity respecting the "black", "brown" and "yellow" races, there has been considerable divergence in decisions on questions relating to the admission of Syrians which

came before the Parliament. The people whom we roughly describe under this name come from that part of Turkey in Asia, which lies to the North of Palestine and of which the principal town (is) Beirut... where they carry on a peaceful and moderately prosperous life as agriculturalists. They are practically all Christians, being adherents of the Greek church or a church affiliated with the Roman Catholic."

In an attempt to define the physical characteristics of the Syrian Lebanese, "the Bulletin" (18th January, 1906) gave vent to the following observations: "Though Asiatic, the Syrian is certainly white, being much of the complexion of the southern European, with dark hair and eyes, and olive skin. His physiognomy is mostly a predatory nose, two heavy lidded eyes and a full under-lip... When young, a bright colour glowing through the dark skin often renders them (the women) attractive-looking, in spite of their coarse features. Occasionally, a truly beautiful face may be seen, but all age quickly."

Gradually, however, viewpoints favouring treatment of Syrian Lebanese as a group separate from Europeans, yet part of the "white race", began to emerge. In 1920, when the Nationality Act was passed, the Syrian Lebanese were accepted as being eligible for citizenship, their complexions were considered sufficiently pale to qualify them for this privilege. Thus they were exempted from the official discrimination suffered by Asians, perhaps also because "they alone saw Australia from the first (moment) as a home in which to settle and raise families."

Interestingly, this opinion corresponds most favourably with Batrouney's (a 4th generation

Lebanese Australian) conclusions on the second generation of early Lebanese migrants. An example of the Lebanese racial self-image in a country hostile to "coloureds" of any kind can be found in views of one of their community leaders of the time. (W. Abourizerk, a prominent leader of the Syrian Lebanese community, expressed his dissatisfaction about the restricted entry of "Syrian Lebanese" to Australia in a letter which he sent to Deakin, the Australian Prime Minister, in 1911). He contends: "Syrians are Caucasians and they are as white a race as the English. Their looks, habits, customs, religion, blood, etc. are those of the Europeans, but they are more intelligent."

Yarwood (1964), ironically remarks that if government officials had mistaken Mount Lebanon as one of the seven hills in Rome, the Syrian Lebanese would have been one of the earliest minorities desiring naturalisation.

It should be remarked that the vast majority of pre-war Lebanese immigrants were Christians; the migration of Muslim Lebanese began several decades later. Such a pattern of delayed migration was also characteristic of Muslim Lebanese migrants to America. Elkholy, an Arab scholar, rationalises that "the fear of losing their religion in the unbelieving country was the main factor delaying the Muslims a quarter of a century in the immigration..."

In the 50's when Muslim immigration on a large scale commenced, official strictures and hair-splitting over skin colour were a thing of the past. Whether attitudes in the community have basically changed in relation to the acceptance of migrants with a non-Christian, non-European background remains a moot question.

Heavy rainfall indicates less power cuts for Ivory Coast

By Claude Regis

ABIDJAN — It took a soccer tournament to end months of sweaty days and sleepless nights in this West African capital, but fears remain that the agony could return.

A two-year drought in the Ivory Coast all but dried up the country's hydro-electric dams, prompting three months of power cuts, lasting up to 12 hours a day.

The rainy season has now arrived early, but welcome relief from the power cuts came only with the opening here of one of Africa's most important sporting events, the finals of the African Nations Soccer Cup.

Hydro-electric capacity being kept for an emergency was brought into use in order that eight million Ivoirians, millions of soccer fans outside the country and hun-

dreds of foreign soccer officials could watch Africa's football elite on television or in floodlit stadiums.

Now the party is over, Ivoirians are wondering if long blackouts will return with all the unpleasantness and discomfort they bring in a tropical country.

There are short power cuts of one or two hours a day, but officials say that following the start of the rains and the arrival of gas turbine generators, the fears are groundless.

Many Ivoirians and members of the large European Community are taking no chances, though. Stocks of candles and gas lamps are being kept up and perishable food bought daily.

Embassies, large companies and wealthy individuals are importing expensive electricity generators, most of which are not powerful enough to work air con-

ditioning systems but which will at least keep food fresh and electrical appliances going.

Officials say the days are gone when irate residents of Abidjan's Manhattan-style Plateau District had to climb the stairs of their high-rise buildings to get to their apartments knowing they would not even be able to have a refreshing shower because water pumps had been affected by the cuts.

Now the rainy season has begun, they hope the nightly downpours continue so the nation's five hydro-electric dams are swiftly replenished.

Four generators bought by the government at the height of the crisis are now in use and alone can supply a third of the country's 300 megawatt demand. An ageing oil-fired power station supplies another 150 megawatts, leaving a 50 megawatt deficit.

Recession forces Portuguese emigrants home

By Clare Lovell

LISBON — Portugal's migrant workers, who for decades have been leaving their mother country in droves to look for a better living in a richer land, are being forced home by the international recession.

The country's four million emigrants abroad are vital to Portugal's ailing economy. They send home more than 200 billion escudos (\$1.5 billion) in remittances every year.

Their important contribution is honoured with a public holiday, "Portuguese communities day," in June and a statue outside the main railway station.

But official figures from France and West Germany show a gradual decline in the Portuguese

population of those countries. Their present force of numbers have proved a sticking point in Portugal's lengthy negotiations to join the European Community, where unemployment is a major problem.

One principle of the community is free movement of labour, but when Greece joined in 1981 it conceded a seven-year transition period during which its citizens were restricted in their ability to move from country to country in search of work.

Luxembourg, whose 30,000 Portuguese represent a third of the foreign population, has asked for a 10-year transition period which Lisbon has refused.

Community officials say the problem is likely to be the last question resolved in the negotiations.

With or without community concessions Portugal may not be able to rely on high remittances for much longer.

Secretary of State for Emigration Manuela Aguiar said recently that official statistics in France and West Germany showed a drop in Portuguese numbers in those countries.

Although Portugal had no accurate statistics of its own, Mr. Aguiar said trends showed the Portuguese would leave France at the rate of 35,000 a year until 1990.

France, the biggest single destination for the emigrants, scattered around the world in 96 countries, is home for nearly a million Portuguese, while West Germany has 106,000.

Mr. Aguiar said rising unemployment was precipitating the

Portuguese withdrawal, "creating serious difficulties and a climate of insecurity and worry amongst emigrants."

"Also, though limited to certain countries, Xenophobic movements have grown and have reached proportions that cannot be ignored," she added.

The Portuguese, Roman Catholic and easily assimilated into northern European society, have largely escaped the racist attacks suffered by North African or Turkish workers in France and West Germany, but the pressure for jobs remains.

"The standard of living is high and I liked the life, but jobs were getting difficult to find so I came back and bought my taxi," said a Lisbon cab driver who worked in the construction industry in West Germany for seven years.

Many who return are faced with an even harder task of finding work in their native country, forced into a stiff austerity programme and suffering 10 per cent unemployment.

But unemployment is not the only reason the Portuguese return.

Many who left in the North European growth years of the 1950s and 1960s while Portugal stagnated under right-wing dictatorship, always intended to come home to enjoy their wealth.

Hundreds of modern houses have sprung up in poor, remote Portuguese villages, built by emigrants for their return.

"The problem is how to encourage them to invest their savings well to help develop the country," a Portuguese official said.

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Hallo Dandy romps to Grand National victory

LIVERPOOL, England (R) — Hallo Dandy, ridden by Neale Doughty and trained by Gordon Richards, won the Grand National steeplechase at Aintree here Saturday.

Irish trained Greasepaint, runner-up to last year's winner Corbiere, came second again, beaten four lengths.

Corbiere, ran a fine race under top weight and finished a gallant third, another one and a half lengths away.

Hallow Dandy was fourth last year but the faster going Saturday made all the difference. Doughty said: "I had no trouble all the way round. I had a great ride last year as well, but we always said it was the ground that beat me then."

Hallo Dandy was the second Grand National winner for Richards who trains in the north of England. He sent out Lucius to win in 1978.

The winner was well supported and started at 13-1. Greasepaint was 9-1 favourite and Corbiere started at 16-1. The fourth horse Lucky Vane was a 12-1 shot.

Earthstopper, who showed prominently for much of the way finished fifth but collapsed and died shortly after passing the winning post.

A record 23 horses from the 40-strong field completed the four and a half miles (7.24 km) test.

Hallo Dandy took the lead two fences from home and although Greasepaint battled all the way, Hallo Dandy, revelling in the going and receiving a stone in weight, held on well. Corbiere struggled on gamely without chal-

lenging the winner.

Doughty said: "It's a dream. I just don't believe it. I was in last place early on because they were going far too fast for me. My horse is a bit slow but I just bided my time and he began to pick them off. I thought Tommy Carmody on Greasepaint was going better than I was as we crossed the Melling Road but he just sort of fizzled out."

Carmody said: "The difference in weight beat us. I thought from the second last fence I had a chance but not from the last. But he ran a fantastic race."

Corbiere's trainer Jenny Pimman said: "My horse was given too much weight. That is what I have always said, but he ran his guts out."

Jockey Ben de Haan who won on Corbiere last year said: "At one stage I thought I might get there but it wasn't to be. He ran a super race though."

Hallo Dandy trainer Richards said: "He was bought for the National and I knew he was ready for the race."

Hallo Dandy is owner Richard Shaw's first horse. The London insurance broker said: "This victory makes everything else that has happened in my sporting life meaningless."

On the first of the two circuits the field was led a Merry Dance by the confirmed front runner Burnt

Oak who was 30 lengths clear at one stage. But he faded right out at half way and was pulled up.

Greasepaint, fellow Irish raider Eliogarty, Earthstopper and Two Swallows took over but as they turned into the straight only Greasepaint was in a position to withstand the challenge of Hallo Dandy who had worked his way through the field.

Lucky Vane, one of three joint second favourites, was never near enough to win after making several mistakes. The other two, Broomy Bank and Grittar, the winner in 1982, were eighth and 10th.

Broomy Bank's rider, amateur Jim Wilson, said: "I had a great ride and was just close enough at the Canal Turn but the ground did not suit him."

Grittar's jockey John Francome, who rode his 1,000th winner over jumps earlier this season, said: "He was never going really well."

Earthstopper was bought 10 months ago for £23,000 (\$33,000) with the race especially in mind.

His jockey Richard Rowe said: "He's run his life out, literally. I feel so sad but the horse has died doing something he enjoyed. I had given him a nice long breather going over the Melling Road and thought I could sail win but he was very tired after the second from home. He just collapsed under me and I landed on my feet."

Valerie Alder, the only woman rider in the race, fell at the eighth fence on 33-1 chance Bush Guide. She said: "He gave me a marvellous ride but then he pecked at the Canal Turn and I was gone. I thought it was marvellous and I will be back again next year."

New boy Wark helps Liverpool back to top

LONDON (R) — John Wark repaid a huge slice of his £450,000 (\$630,000) transfer fee Saturday when he snatched the opening goal in Liverpool's 2-0 win over Watford to help steer his new side back to the top of the English first division.

Scottish international midfielder Wark, signed from struggling Ipswich last week to boost Liverpool's quest for their third successive championship, lashed his goal eight minutes after half-time to crown an impressive debut.

Ian Rush, English soccer's deadliest marksman, sealed the win nine minutes from time with his 36th goal of the season as Liverpool displaced Manchester United at the top.

United, Liverpool's sole challengers for the title, lost 2-0 at West Bromwich to slip to second, two points behind the champions with nine games remaining.

Liverpool have taken 66 points from 33 games while United boast 64 points from 33.

Nottingham Forest remained third on 57 points after drawing 0-0 at neighbours Notts County. But Southampton saw their already faint hope of landing a League and Football Association (F.A.) Cup double disappear at Everton Saturday morning when they lost 1-0 to an Andy Gray goal.

The defeat relegated Southampton to fifth place with West Ham moving into fourth following their 2-2 home draw with London rivals Queen's Park Rangers.

There was little joy for Manchester United manager Ron Atkinson and captain Bryan Robson on their return to their former club West Bromwich, United, who moved top of the table two weeks ago, were plunged into trouble after 37 minutes when midfielder

Steve Mackenzie shot West Bromwich ahead.

Bustling striker Cyrille Regis made sure of the points 11 minutes from time when he grabbed the Birmingham side's second.

But the day belonged to Wark, a hard-working midfielder with a knack for scoring goals. Wark, who scored more than 100 times for Ipswich, sneaked in behind the Watford defence to hammer home a pass from Kenny Dalglish from three metres.

Liverpool, who won the League Cup for the fourth successive time on Wednesday when they beat Everton 1-0, probably sighed with relief when Rush added the second. The Welshman had not scored in his four previous matches.

Clive Allen hit two goals in the last 15 minutes as West Ham threw away a two-goal lead over Queen's Park Rangers.

Geoff Pike volleyed the opening goal after 16 minutes before Tony Cottee hit his 12th of the season a minute before the interval to put West Ham 2-0 up.

West Ham looked worthy winners until Allen inspired a frantic Rangers revival, reducing the deficit after 76 minutes and then netting the equaliser nine minutes later.

UEFA Cup semi-finalists Tottenham struggled to beat bottom club Wolverhampton 1-0. Mike Hazard volleyed the winner after 34 minutes.

And Tottenham's London rivals Arsenal added to Coventry's problems when they handed out a 4-1 thrashing. Dave Bennett put

the home side in front after 32 minutes before Chris Whyte, Stuart Robson, Brian Talbot and Paul Mariner — Wark's former Ipswich team-mate — replied for Arsenal.

But Whyte was sent off eight minutes from time for fouling Coventry's Graham Withey. Aberdeen's runaway lead in the Scottish Premier Division was checked by Celtic. The Glasgow side won 1-0 thanks to a 39th minute goal by Jim McInnes.

The win kept alive second-placed Celtic's hopes of winning the championship. They trail Aberdeen, who have two games in hand, by four points.

Champions Dundee United dropped a point in a goalless draw with Hearts while Rangers produced a dazzling second half display to crush bottom side Motherwell 3-0.

Ally McCoist missed a first half penalty for Rangers but defender Craig Paterson headed them in from a corner after 65 minutes.

Dave McPherson added a second after 71 minutes before Hugh Burns rounded off the win three minutes from time.

An eighth minute goal by Willie Jamieson put Hibernian on the road to a 2-1 win over Dundee. Jim McInnes equalised before halftime but Willie Irvine snatched the winner early in the second half.

Forfar became the first club in Britain to clinch promotion when they won at Stenhousemuir to be certain of moving out of the Scottish second division.

Hagler nails Hammer

LAS VEGAS (R) — Marvin Hagler survived a furious opening onslaught from Argentina's Juan Domingo Roldan Friday night and retained his undisputed world middleweight boxing title when the referee stopped the fight in the 10th round.

Hagler, defending his crown for the ninth time, nailed the brawling 26-year-old Roldan, nicknamed "the Hammer", after 39 seconds of the 10th when the referee signalled the scheduled 15-round contest was over.

The underdog challenger, given little chance of lasting more than a few rounds against the shaven-headed American, opened the fight in sensational style.

He caught the champion off balance with a left and sending him briefly to the canvas.

Hagler was apparently unhurt by the knockdown and later maintained he slipped.

But he was clearly in trouble from several heavy blows thrown by Roldan in the first two rounds, which the challenger appeared to win.

Roldan knew his only chance of beating Hagler was by a fast knockout. When that play failed the

tide quickly turned. In the third round, a Hagler attacker nearly forced Roldan through the ropes, and at the end of the three minutes the Argentine was blinking his right eye.

In the fourth, a cut appeared on the bridge of Roldan's nose and his right eye began to swell and close.

From then until the end, Hagler was in control. But the immensely fit Roldan was still able to crowd the champion and mount sporadic counterattacks.

Referee Tony Perez stopped the contest after Roldan was floored by a straight right. Although he survived the count, a battered Roldan shook his head in defeat and the referee ended the fight.

Roldan's resistance crumbled under a steady stream of combinations from Hagler.

Hagler, who collected about \$1.25 million for the evening's work, has now scored 49 knockouts in 63 fights, only two of which he has lost.

Roldan, who pocketed \$100,000 plus expenses, now has a ring record of 50 wins, three losses, two draws and one no-decision.

Noah, Kriek join Connors, Arias in semi-finals

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — French Open Champion Yannick Noah brushed aside a challenge from American Scott Davis Friday night to slip into the semi-finals of the \$265,000 men's Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Second-seeded Noah won 7-6, 6-3 to face South African-born American Johan Kriek, the seventh seed, who had a tougher time eliminating American Tony Giammalva 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Americans Jimmy Connors and Jimmy Arias, who won their quarter-final matches Friday afternoon, will play each other after the Noah-Kriek match.

Davis held the first set point at 5-4. But Noah erased it with a cross-court winner and then took the tiebreaker, 7-3.

The French Open champion, who unleashed 13 aces in the match, broke Davis's service in the fourth game of the second set to take the deciding lead.

"I'm happy with the way I'm playing after being away from tournaments for five weeks," Noah said. "I wondered if I'd be able to do well. But here I'm in the semi-finals. If I can keep serving well,

maybe I can do better." Kriek won the last six games of what he described as "a weird match" against Giammalva, whose younger brother Sammy, was beaten by Connors in the afternoon programme 6-1, 6-3.

After trading sets, Giammalva led Kriek 5-1, 40-15 in the third and had three match points.

"Tony played like a world champion with great shots," Kriek said. "but I started to take gambles when he was at 5-1 in the third set. I just hung in there. It was a weird match."

Giammalva said: "I was nervous and was anticipating the win. When you get tight like that you can't hit out." Arias beat fellow American Mel Purcell 6-2, 6-7, 6-0, in the other afternoon match.

The 31-year-old Connors, who has won more than 100 tournaments, told reporters he would not play any European tournaments apart from the French Open and Wimbledon from next year.

"I'm playing 30 weeks this year and that's too much for me," he said after beating Giammalva.

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Interested bidders are invited to collect tenders documents from the procurement division at the directorate of projects starting 31st of March against the payment of JD 5 or U.S.\$15 for each package.

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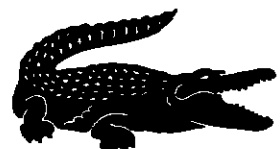
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مكتبة من كتب

British steel union chief warns striking coal miners

LONDON (R) — A three-week-old strike by British coal miners, which has shut all but 38 of the country's 176 pits, Saturday cast a shadow over the recession-hit steel industry, fighting to survive after severe cutbacks.

With evidence mounting that the stoppage is beginning to hit fuel-starved steel works, Mr. Bill Sims, leader of the steel workers, warned miners he would not support them to the extent of losing jobs in his own industry.

"I am not here to see the steel industry crucified on someone else's altar," he said Friday night at Scunthorpe, an eastern England town with heavy unemployment.

The local steel mill has been hit by coal shortages after picketing by militant miners. Its output was cut by 50 per cent this week and is to be cut by a further 25 per cent next week.

Mr. Sims, in his warning to the miners over their strike against threatened pit closures and job losses, said: "You have not got to deliver damaging blows to the industry that keeps you going."

He was backed up by Mr. Robert Haslam, chairman of the state-owned British Steel Corporation, who said the miners were in danger of losing permanently even more of their future market if the steel industry was damaged by their actions.

The steel union was one of six which pledged support to the miners. ASLEF, representing 24,000 train drivers, Friday became the first transport union to order its members to stop all movements of coal and coke in Britain.

The 180,000-strong National Union of Mineworkers faced the threat of a further split in its ranks. Leaders of 6,500 striking miners in Lancashire Saturday opted out of a three-week-old strike that has closed all but 38 of Britain's 176 coalfields, and voted to return to work on Monday.

But the vote was split and some of the 200 delegates at a meeting in Bolton in north-west England, accused other delegates of "stabbing them in the back" by failing to support further strike action.

The national executive of the NUM has refused to call a national ballot on the strike, which is in

protest at the proposed closure of unprofitable pits.

Lancashire miners originally voted against joining the strike, but their leaders later ordered them to join for a week as a gesture of solidarity in the belief that the executive would call a national ballot.

The Lancashire executive said in a statement Saturday that it had "no option but to endeavour to work normally on Monday," because the national executive had not co-ordinated action nationally.

Delegates from several areas indicated they would continue to strike, and others said they would not cross picket lines.

The strike has split the NUM and there have been violent scenes outside pits where the men wished to continue to work, when pickets from striking pits attempted to dissuade them.

A National Coal Board spokesman described the decision to return to work as "a victory for common sense and democratic decisions."

EC takes first major step towards healthier finances

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) Saturday took an historic first step towards putting its future finances on a sound footing, but diplomats said the danger of a short-term cash crisis had not been averted.

After meeting through the night in an exhausting 18-hour session, agriculture ministers agreed to slash milk production and cut the general level of farm prices for the first time in the 20-year history of the common agricultural policy.

Their aim was to put a lid on increasing farm spending which had pushed the 10-nation group to the brink of insolvency.

The bloc's finances are in a mess after years of buying up at artificially high prices every excess gallon of milk or grain of wheat that Europe's eight million farmers could produce.

The community's famed "butter mountain" has reached 800,000 tonnes, with an extra one million tonnes in surplus skimmed milk powder and 400,000 tonnes in beef stocks.

Farm spending is expected to surpass revenues by at least \$2.5 billion this year.

Rather than helping to bridge this gap, Saturday's accord will actually add to it in the short term. But officials said that without agreement the group would have been forced to spend an extra \$8.5 million a day, largely to finance milk stocks.

The gap must be bridged if the

community is to avoid looming insolvency, and diplomats said the path to a solution could be blocked by the long-running dispute over British budget rebates.

The full effects of the cost-cutting reforms announced Saturday will not be felt until 1986, the same year in which the 10 have agreed in principle to increase revenues by raising Value Added Tax (VAT) contributions.

But diplomats said it was not yet clear how the community would survive financially during the two fallow years until spending was cut and revenues raised.

European Agriculture Commissioner Poul Dalsgaard said the extra funds needed for this year should come from member state contributions.

But British Agriculture Minister Michael Jopling appeared to say Britain would oppose such a solution.

Soon after agreeing to Saturday's package, which Agriculture Director-General Claude Villain said would cost \$750 million this year, Mr. Jopling issued a statement saying the money to pay for it must be found within the 1984 budget.

But the budget is already headed for a major deficit, and diplomats said Mr. Jopling's statement could indicate that Britain was preparing its partners for the possibility that London might veto special payments until its rebate dispute was solved.

This issue stopped agreement on a financial package at the Brussels summit 10 days ago.

A subsequent effort by foreign ministers to resolve the dispute also ended in deadlock.

Saturday's agreement was a triumph for French Agriculture Minister Michel Rocard who as chairman guided his nine colleagues towards an accord that many had thought unattainable.

Greece alone cast a negative vote, and only on four out of 69 regulations.

Mr. Rocard conceded that the accord meant an end to unlimited guarantees for Europe's farmers, and even for French farmers, who are the most militant in the group.

"The common agricultural policy will be less popular because its incentives are more limited and weaker," he said.

"But it should allow Europe to catch its second wind, now that it has shown it can put its agricultural affairs in order," he added.

In Paris, a spokesman for French farmers said the reform agreement could be catastrophic for the future of Europe and was an unacceptable retreat.

U.S., Latin American states agree to lend Argentina \$500m

WASHINGTON (R) — Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia and international banks have agreed to lend Argentina \$500 million to help stop it defaulting on overdue interest payments, the U.S. treasury has announced.

It said in a statement Friday night that the United States had also agreed to give Argentina a \$300 million bridging loan provided Argentina committed itself to an early agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic austerity.

Argentina faced a deadline Saturday for paying \$640 million in interest arrears, without which U.S. creditor banks would have been forced to report losses on their loans to the debt-burdened country.

The \$500 million package, which is available now, is made up of \$100 million each from Mexico and Venezuela, \$50 million each

from Brazil and Colombia, \$100 million from commercial banks and \$100 million from Argentina itself, drawn from its own reserves.

Argentina, with \$43.6 billion in foreign debt, ranks third in money owed among Latin American debtor nations after Brazil and Mexico, two participants in the rescue package.

In January, Brazil itself signed a \$27.5 billion package of bank and government financing aimed at keeping it solvent through this year.

In November 1982, Mexico agreed with the IMF to impose economic austerity in return for a \$3.84 billion loan.

The treasury statement said IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere had issued a report on the IMF's talks with Argentina, in which the country "reaffirmed its intention to work toward an

early agreement with the IMF on a new adjustment programme."

"This multilateral financing package, conceived by Mexico in hemispheric solidarity, is designed to help the Argentine government restore the basis for sustainable economic growth and to foster democracy in this very important Latin American country," the statement said.

The treasury statement gave no other details of the accord, but U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan will later hold a press conference to discuss the package.

Argentina, whose civilian government replaced military rulers last year, has accumulated foreign debt interest arrears dating from the last quarter of 1983.

U.S. creditor banks wanted the issue to be solved by Saturday so as to avoid declaring many of their loans to Argentina as non-performing in their next quarterly balance sheet.

Minister says Nigerian economy bad but not beyond redemption

LAGOS (R) — Nigerian Finance Minister Onaolapo Soyeye said Friday the country's financial situation was bad "but certainly not beyond redemption."

In a special radio and television broadcast, Mr. Soyeye gave a detailed explanation of the country's finances and indicated the military government which seized power on Dec. 31 would introduce tough austerity measures in May's budget.

"Some of the measures will lead to the pruning of unproductive and redundant elements in the economy," he said.

The Nigerian economy, which is heavily dependent on oil, has been badly hit by the global oil glut and military leader Major-General Mohammad Buhari told labour leaders on Tuesday the country was on the verge of bankruptcy.

In London, banking sources said Nigeria planned to present its foreign creditors next week with a formal request to schedule up to \$6 billion of its short-term trade debt arrears.

Bankers said they did not foresee any major obstacles to an agreement. However, it is dependent on Lagos agreeing economic adjustment measures with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Officials said Friday that Mr. Soyeye was due to go to Washington on Sunday for further talks on an IMF loan needed to carry Nigeria over its cash-flow problems. He has previously said the loan would be worth between \$2.5 and \$3.1 billion.

An IMF demand for a devaluation of the naira is being increasingly opposed by labour unions.

In his broadcast, the minister put the federal government's total debt at nearly \$27 billion naira (\$38 billion) of which about 5.3 billion naira (\$7.5 billion) was owed abroad.

Apart from the federal foreign debt, the country's 19 states had combined external borrowings of nearly two billion naira (\$2.8 billion), he said.

In addition, the states had more foreign debts totalling nearly four billion naira (\$5.6 billion) that were not guaranteed by the Lagos government.

Mr. Soyeye said a detailed explanation of the nation's economic position had been necessary "as it would appear from certain demands being made on the federal and state governments that the extent of our financial problems is not being appreciated."

Government, Indian strikers talks fail

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government and dock workers' leaders failed to resume talks Saturday over a stalemate developed over a wage dispute that has closed the country's ports for 16 days.

Mr. S.R. Kulkarni, president of the Port and Dock Workers' Federation, told Reuters no decision had been made to reopen discussions, which stalled Friday when the government warned it might use casual labour to break the strike.

"If the government offer is not increased, we will not resume

talks," he said.

A shipping and transport ministry official told reporters after Friday's talks that both sides had modified their proposals to settle the strike, which has shut ports, stranded about 200 ships and paralysed India's trade.

Japan's inflation rate falls

TOKYO (R) — Japan's inflation rate is running at 2.1 per cent, the lowest figure for 24 years, the government said Friday. The rate announced for March, compiled from a Tokyo survey, compares with 1.5 per cent in 1959.

Bad winter weather pushed up the cost of food. But Japan has had the benefit of falling oil prices this year and consumers are paying less for medicine because the government has forced the medical profession to cut drug prices.

The government said unemployment in February rose to 1.71 million — three per cent of the workforce — from 1.65 million in January.

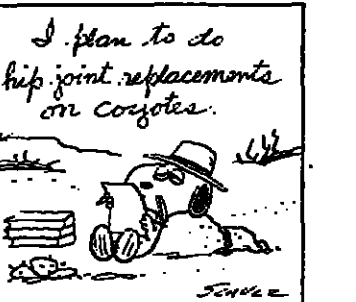
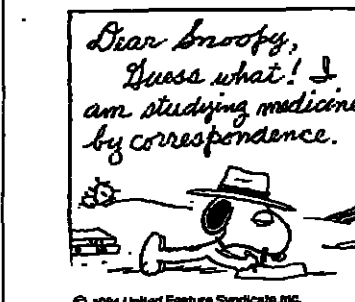
Procter and Gamble expands board seats

CINCINNATI (Agencies) — The Procter & Gamble board of directors voted to increase the number of directors from 17 to 18 and elected Dr. Joshua Lederberg, president of The Rockefeller University, to fill this additional position.

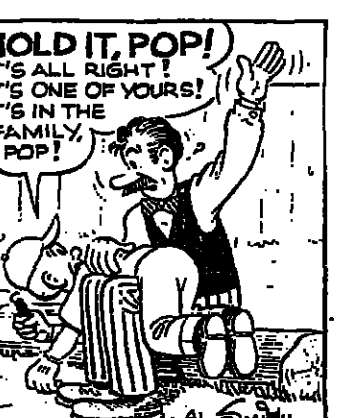
He was awarded the Nobel prize in physiology and medicine for work on the genetics of bacteria.

Dr. Lederberg holds several honorary degrees including ones from Yale, Columbia, Wisconsin, and Rutgers Universities. He is a member of the National Academy of Science and the Royal Society of London.

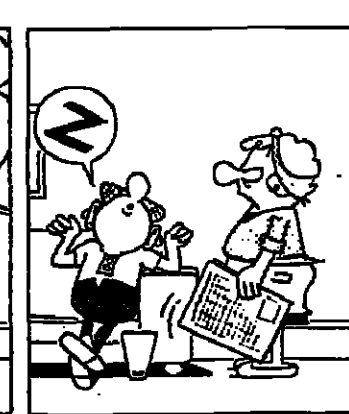
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



U.S., Soviet trade falls

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet-U.S. trade was down by 14.6 per cent last year due partly to lower Soviet grain imports and lower imports of machinery and chemicals from the United States.

The figures, released Friday by the Soviet foreign trade journal, show turnover between Moscow and Washington dropped to 1.9 billion roubles (\$2.43 billion) from 2.24 billion roubles (\$2.86 billion) in 1982, with the balance of trade in Washington's favour.

Soviet exports to the U.S. rose to 330.5 million roubles (\$423 million) in 1983 from 154.8 million (\$198 million) the year before, the figures show.

Soviet imports from the U.S. dropped 24.8 per cent to 1.57 billion roubles (\$2 billion), the lowest level since 1980.

Overall Moscow had a surplus on trade with the developed West of 0.93 billion roubles (\$1.2 billion).

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 1984.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day touches off the new moon, and it is best that you wind up matters that you have already started. Later in the day, you are able to get inspired, new ideas. Be positive.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can finish those tasks left undone, and then be inspired to something worthwhile for the future. Be happy at home tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Give that private affair your full attention, then tonight meet with good advisors. Improve the relationship with the one you love.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Early get that plan worked out that you have been struggling with. Thank one who has done you a favor.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Know what others in the outside world expect of you, and then you can proceed accordingly. Drive with the utmost care.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Follow the dogmas you profess in the morning, and then concentrate on improving your way of life. Be alert.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make sure you handle the tasks you promised your mate in the morning. Study your monetary position early. Be wise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Show partners that you have kept your part of any contracts, and then discuss future affairs wisely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to do something thoughtful for those who have done you many favors. Organize future work more intelligently.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Perfect some hobby before you take on another. Spend some time at amusements of sports.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Begin this Sunday properly by keeping promises you have made to kin. Extend invitations to fascinating persons.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Return calls of persons who have been trying to reach you, and make better arrangements for the future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Pay bills in the morning, and then study more interesting outlets for the future. Focus your attention on greater abundance.

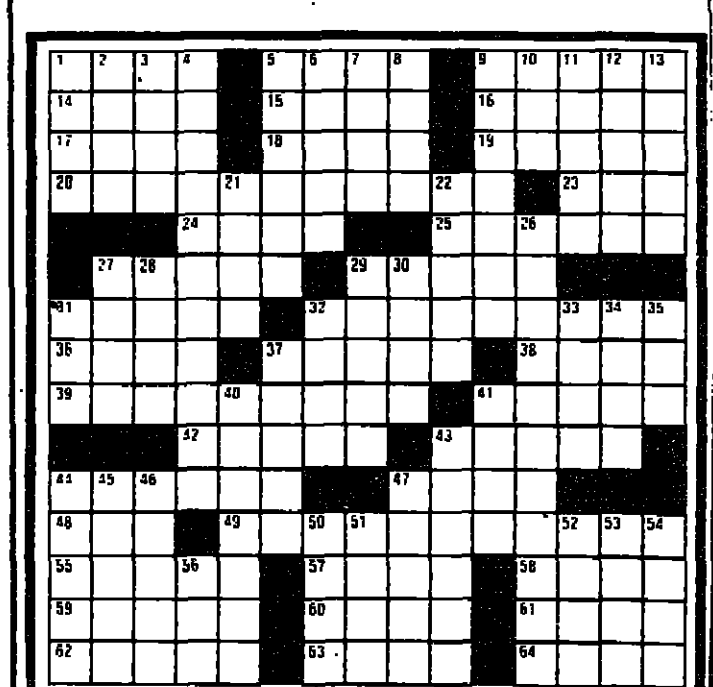
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who will be alert to new opportunities and should be allowed to study periodicals early in life that will be helpful in picking out a career in life. There is a tendency to drop an interest shortly after starting it.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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THE Daily Crossword By Nancy Mc Carthy

ACROSS	27 Armorial helmet	57 "I cannot tell"	26 Barbara Stanwyck
1 Bank: Lat.	29 Fr. GI	58 Inclusive abbr.	27 Lily plant
5 Capital of Yemen	31 Spate	59 Gem	28 Cross
9 Crosses by wading	32 River shuttle	60 Eur. river	29 Diminish gradually
14 Single bird	36 Portal	61 Actress Foch	30 Sp. gold ornaments
15 Brutus' bird	37 Cars	62 — over (studied carefully)	31 White House monogram
16 Labor group	38 Playground	63 Optical device	32 Current breaker
17 604	41 Colo. park	64 TIT	33 Imprecation
18 Wild West weapon	42 — alia	65 Swears	34 Metric measures
19 Pacific treaty	43 Legends	66 Sings	35 Football scores: abbr.
20 Houdini	44 Unsullied	67 Yorkshire river	36 Garden bloom
21 Land: abbr.	45 York	68 Tutu	37 Garden bloom
22 Negatives	46 Viper	69 Swears	38 Matriculated
23 Screed	47 Viper	70 Swears	39 Circuit
		71 Long river	40 Clerical headresses
		72 Ital. wine commune	41 Necktie part
		73 In an excessively detailed manner	42 Was obligated
		74 Single	43 Eagerness
		75 Ranch rope	44 Thai or Korean
		76 Loved foolishly	45 Fasten
		77 Sleep sound	46 On the toes
		78 Campus figure	47 Grandma
		79 Rouses	48 Bed member
			49 Wind dir.



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THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"Mother asked me to pick up a book on natural childbirth. Her begonia is going to have a baby!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ALCKO
NEMIR
NABACA
CECHIT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " " " " " " " " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ENSUE FATAL CARBON JURIST
Answer: He tried to compose a drinking song but didn't make it past this—THE FIRST 2 BARS

Czechoslovakia upgrades air defence

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovak Army Chief Miloslav Blahník Saturday said New Soviet missiles in his country were being aimed at U.S. nuclear missile bases in Western Europe and that Czechoslovakia was upgrading its air defence system.

Gen. Blahník, chief of Army General Staff, also told Rude Pravo, the Communist Party daily, that Prague's new defence measures would not affect neutral and non-aligned countries.

The Soviet Bloc would "never allow the United States and NATO to achieve military supremacy whatever way they use," the official Ceteke News Agency quoted him as telling Rude Pravo.

Gen. Blahník referred to the deployment in five NATO states

of new medium-range cruise and Pershing-2 nuclear missiles and to retaliatory measures by the Warsaw Pact. The Pact says it is sitting new tactical-operational weapons in Czechoslovakia and East Germany to counter the U.S. missiles.

Western diplomats believe these may be nuclear armed missiles of the Soviet SS-12 variety.

"The new operational-tactical complexes are designed only to destroy bases and launchpads of U.S. nuclear weapons in the case

of an armed conflict," Gen. Blahník said.

"They are not installed in countries or regions where the balance of forces would be upset and the sovereignty of neutral and non-aligned states could be jeopardised," the general said.

"The Czechoslovak People's Army is adopting measures to raise the effectiveness of anti-aircraft defence and to master ways of destroying new systems introduced in NATO Armed Forces," he said without elaboration.

But he said: "The Czechoslovak Army will be equipped with the most modern means of reconnaissance that will make it possible to expose in time preparations for attacking Czechoslovakia and other Warsaw

treaty states."

Western diplomats here said the reference to neutral and non-aligned states was significant and could be primarily intended for Austria and Yugoslavia.

Austria has a long border with Czechoslovakia and its neutrality was guaranteed under the Austrian State treaty of 1955 whereby its independence was restored by Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union after World War II.

There has been growing concern over the latest missile developments in Austria, where some officials are advocating that Austrian defences should be ready to shoot down any nuclear missiles crossing Austrian territory.

Mengistu ends visit to Moscow

Moscow (R) — Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam left Moscow Saturday after three days of talks with Soviet leaders.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said Mr. Mengistu was seen off at one of Moscow's airports by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

On Friday, Mr. Mengistu met Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov for talks believed to have centred on Moscow's military aid to Addis Ababa.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said the two men discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa, but it gave no details.

Western diplomats said they believed future military co-operation was one of the main points on Mr. Mengistu's agenda for his three-day visit and said it would have been covered in detail at Friday's talks.

The Soviet Union has more than 3,000 military and civilian advisers in Ethiopia and supplies Mr. Mengistu with almost all his weaponry.

The Ethiopian leader, who Thursday met Soviet Communist Party Chief Konstantin Chernenko, also held talks with Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Friday on bilateral relations and with politburo member Geidar Aliyev on trade.

African diplomatic sources said Friday there had been some disagreement between Mr. Mengistu and Kremlin leaders over the timing of his visit but added that it was hard to say if this had affected the atmosphere at the talks.

They said Mr. Mengistu had requested a postponement of the trip so that he could attend Friday's funeral in Conakry of Guinean President Ahmad Sekou Toure, but that Moscow has refused.

Mr. Mengistu is current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity and the diplomats said his absence from the funeral would cause displeasure to some African leaders.

Greek official says U.S. bases no use to Greece

ATHENS (R) — A senior Greek Defence official said Saturday that the four U.S. military bases in Greece are of no benefit to his country and serve only American interests.

Alternate Defence Minister Antonis Drossos said the comment at a news conference between meetings with U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger in Athens for two days of talks with Greek military leaders.

Mr. Drossos said the only benefit Greece received for its new bases pact, which expires in 1989, was an annual U.S. loan of \$500 million to buy American arms.

"Even if they (the bases) leave, they would not change the defence problem of Greece," he said.

The Greek government had made similar statements in the past but military observers said they took on added significance Saturday because they came during Mr. Weinberger's visit.

Mr. Weinberger met Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, who is also defence minister, Friday shortly after arriving. He leaves Sunday for a NATO meeting in Turkey.

U.S. defence officials had said one aim of the Athens visit was to clarify the new bases agreement so they could decide on implementing plans to spend up to \$200 million to modernise the four bases.

But Mr. Drossos said the \$200 million sum was "fantastic" and too high.

One U.S. official said the money would be used on a wide range of projects, from building stores for U.S. troops to repair of flight lines.

The U.S. has a naval base and communications centre on Crete and an airfield and second communications unit near Athens, all of which it considers vital for NATO defences.

Mr. Drossos said "It would not be sound to say there was no contribution (to NATO) whatsoever — these bases are solely for the use of the U.S., not for the use of Greece or NATO."

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Tigers kill 6 people in central Sumatra

JAKARTA (R) — Tigers have killed six people, including two children, in a remote village in central Sumatra, a local official was quoted Saturday as saying. Malik Kayo of Sungai Kunyit district told the newspaper Kompas that four of the victims were killed this month and the others earlier in the year. An official at the Population and Environmental Ministry said the tigers' natural habitat might have been reduced by new resettlement areas to house migrants from Java. The victims were mostly attacked while working in their fields, except for one child who was playing in front of his house near a forest, the report said.

Leading Catholic theologian dies

INNSBRUCK, Austria (R) — Professor Karl Rahner, regarded by religious circles as one of the greatest Roman Catholic theologians of the century, died Friday night, aged 80, a church spokesman said Saturday. Father Rahner, who celebrated his 80th birthday on March 5, died of heart failure in the intensive care unit of an Innsbruck clinic just before midnight, according to the rector of the Jesuit College here, Father Josef Mullner. Professor Rahner, a Jesuit, who wrote copious volumes on most aspects of theology and modern thought, had a deep influence on the debates and decrees of the 1962-65 Vatican Council.

High Court rules against blind judge

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Justice may be blind in Brazil, but the judge can't be, the supreme court ruled Thursday. The court voted 8-2 against the position of Orlando Vieira, a blind man who had placed first in a competitive test for a federal judgeship, but who was denied the job. Mr. Vieira argued his exclusion was discriminatory under the Brazilian constitution, especially since he had passed the physical and mental examinations required for the test. But the majority of the high court accepted the federal court's argument that blindness is grounds for retirement of federal judge and therefore prevents the hiring of Mr. Vieira.

Swedish stamp sold for \$395,000

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — A Swedish postage stamp issued in 1855 was sold at an auction Friday for 850,000 Swiss francs (\$395,349), one of the highest prices ever paid for a philatelic rarity. The yellow-orange three skilling, a so-called error in colour because the other stamps of that issue were printed in green, was discovered in 1885 by a Swedish schoolboy among a pile of letters left by his grandparents. The boy is said to have sold it to a local dealer for seven crowns (now about 88 U.S. cents). Various owners included King Carol of Romania who bought it for 5,000 pounds in 1937. For the past three decades, it has been the property of a collector of Swedish origin, Rene Berlingio. The sale was the highlight of a two-day auction. Auctioneer David Feldman said it was bought by a private collector who insists on anonymity.

Prince Andrew returns to South Atlantic

LONDON (AP) — Prince Andrew, a Royal Navy helicopter pilot who flew combat missions in the 1982 Falklands War against Argentina, returns to the South Atlantic April 5 to the tiny island of St. Helena. The visit, marking the island's 150th anniversary as a British colony, is the first solo royal tour made by Prince Andrew, 22, second son of Queen Elizabeth II. Prince Andrew will fly from a Royal Air Force base in southwest England to Ascension Island, a spot last visited during the Falklands campaign. Ascension was the main staging area for the British task force that recaptured the Falklands after they were seized by Argentina. There he will join the survey vessel Herald for a three-day cruise across the equator to St. Helena. The island does not have an airstrip.

Military exercises in Honduras start today

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — A new round of U.S. military exercises, set to begin Sunday, is designed to increase pressure on leftist Nicaragua by putting American forces, and possibly Guatemalan and Salvadoran troops, about 32 kilometres from the border, U.S. officials say.

The first phase of the exercises, known as Granadero I, calls for U.S. Army engineers to build two dirt runways, one at Cucuyagua, about 56 kilometres from the Salvadoran border, and the other at Jamastran, about 32 kilometres

from the Nicaraguan border area where CIA-backed rebels are fighting leftist Sandinista troops.

One diplomat said the Jamastran airstrip will be used only at the end of the exercise for a mock airborne assault. Both airstrips will be capable of handling planes the size of C-130s transport aircraft.

The officials, who spoke on condition they not be identified, conceded Jamastran was chosen for the exercises to increase psychological pressure on the Sandinista government.

They said the exercises at Cucuyagua are intended to have a similar intimidating effect on leftist Salvadoran guerrillas, who flee into Honduras to escape the Salvadoran Army.

"It's a poker game," said one diplomat. "The stakes are going up and but it's still under control and I think it will stay under control."

The diplomat said the U.S. strategy was to use intimidation of the Sandinista government; to "put a wedge between them and Cuba."

The diplomat also said the effort could be considered "provocative" by Nicaragua.

The new exercises come at a time of intensified attack by CIA-backed rebels against Nicaraguan forces.

Lt. Col. James Strachan, the U.S. embassy's defence spokesman, said American forces would get no closer than eight kilometres from the tense Nicaraguan border and that "effective control measures" including radar to direct aircraft, would prevent any border incidents.

Nicaragua says it fears U.S. military blockade

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Nicaragua said Friday the mining of its territorial waters, which it termed "state terrorism unleashed by the present United States government," raised fears of a military blockade of the country.

Opening debate in the Security Council on what Nicaragua termed "escalating aggression," its chief delegate, Javier Chamorro Mora, said Washington had given up hope of success by anti-Sandinista counter-revolutionaries whom it backs with cash.

"The latest actions make us think that Reagan's government intends to establish a military blockade against Nicaragua," he said. He said the international community had a responsibility to stop a government that increasingly resorted to the use of force to resolve international conflicts.

Mr. Chamorro Mora said indiscriminate mining of Nicaraguan ports had resulted in injuries to people and damage to ships, including the Dutch Dredger Geoponte VI which suffered \$1 million worth of damage on March 1.

The Nicaraguan delegate said that two days ago the Liberian vessel Lindercher exploded when it hit a mine leaving Corinto and two Nicaraguan boats in Corinto bay were destroyed by mines.

"These ships detoured to Costa Rican ports, and thus normal loading and unloading were affected."

U.S. delegate Jeane Kirkpatrick said Nicaragua continued to increase its army and to receive weapons from the Soviet Bloc. Managua, she added, began the process of introducing foreign military personnel into the area.

Volcanic eruption forces evacuations in Hawaii

HILO, Hawaii (R) — Lava from the world's biggest active volcano oozed closer to the Hawaiian town of Hilo Saturday and officials said the eruption of a second volcano in the island chain had forced people to flee their homes.

A secondary stream of lava from the big Mauna Loa eruption started moving towards the town of 45,000 people Friday. At the same time, the smaller Kilauea volcano burst into life 40 kilometres away and fast-moving lava forced the evacuation of seven remote houses.

Scientists said it was the first time since April 1868 that both volcanoes had erupted simultaneously.

Mauna Loa burst into life on Sunday. The main lava flow stopped about six kilometres from Hilo but scientists said a new lava flow was heading for the town, the largest on Hawaii Island.

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Opposition leader sworn in as Bangladeshi premier

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Ataur Rahman Khan, the ailing head of an opposition coalition, pledged "a peaceful transition to democracy" Friday as he was sworn in as prime minister of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, thousands of students held a rally in downtown Dhaka calling for an end to martial law.

Bangladesh's military ruler, Lt. Gen. Hussain Mohammad Ershad, said the South Asian nation was passing through a political crisis and appealed to opposition parties co-operate with his administration in restoring democracy.

Gen. Ershad, the country's president and chief martial law administrator, appointed Mr. Khan prime minister on Thursday in an apparent move to broaden the base of his two-year-old regime.

The president has scheduled national elections on May 27 but the two main opposition coalitions have threatened to boycott the polls unless Gen. Ershad ends martial law and hands over power to an interim government.

Gen. Ershad told the gathering at the oath-taking ceremony in the Presidential Palace Friday that he appointed Mr. Khan prime minister to promote a peaceful transfer of power to elected representatives.

Mr. Khan, 72, is chairman of a

11-party alliance that has little following in this nation of 95 million. The group has supported Gen. Ershad's regime on major issues, but last Tuesday Mr. Khan severely criticised the military government.

Addressing a rally in the capital, Mr. Khan had called Gen. Ershad "the killer of democracy" and threatened to launch what he called a "people's movement" to unseat him.

Saying Bangladesh was passing through "a critical time," Gen. Ershad voiced hope that his new prime minister would help him in opening a dialogue with the major political parties.

Mr. Khan later told reporters he would immediately get in touch with the two main oppositions to evolve a national consensus on restoration of democracy.

Although he was a "sick man," Mr. Khan said he would do his best to help Gen. Ershad peacefully transfer power to the people's representatives.

Mr. Khan — chief of the jatiya dal (National League) Party — was the leader of the opposition in parliament from 1972 until August 1975 when the body was dissolved and martial law proclaimed following a series of coups.

Gen. Ershad, who seized power from President Abdus Sattar in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

First Indian astronaut to be launched on April 3

MOSCOW (AP) — India's first man in space will perform Yoga while strapped to sensitive instruments that measure weightlessness and motion sickness during an eight-day joint Soviet-Indian space mission next week.

The Indian, Rakesh Sharma, 35, will join Soviet cosmonauts Col. Yuri V. Malyshev, 42, and Gennadi M. Strekalov, 43, in a launch Tuesday aboard the Soyuz T-10 rocket from Soviet Central Asia, the officials said at a news conference.

The rocket will dock Thursday with the Salyut-7 orbiting space station, where three other Soviet cosmonauts have been working since a Feb. 8 launch. The Soviet-Indian crew will return to earth April 10.

The Soviet handling of the mission is to be a dramatic departure from the sparse information supplied about space flights involving only Soviet cosmonauts.

During their mission, the cosmonauts will talk by satellite with Indian Prime Minister Indira

Gandhi, conduct a news conference that will be relayed to correspondents in Moscow and speak with space officials at the Mission Control Centre near Moscow.

The Soviet Union has scheduled daily news conferences and televised programmes for foreign journalists during the mission.

In the Soviet Union, launches customarily are not announced in advance and the government does not reveal how long Soviet cosmonauts are to remain in space.

Anatoly Grigorev, deputy director of the Soviet Institute of Medical Biology, said 43 experiments will be completed during the mission.

Some will be conducted to test a metal alloy, others will involve the photography of India and a series of medical experiments will deal with weightlessness, motion sickness and the psychological condition of man during space flight.

"Our Indian colleagues proposed a very interesting experiment involving yoga, which will be completed by cosmonaut Sharma."

Acid rain to dominate U.S.-Canada talks

OTTAWA (R) — A row over acid rain pollution looks set to dominate talks between Canada and the United States on Sunday and Monday in Washington.

A senior Canadian official said the environment would be a dominant theme in the discussions between Canadian External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

Canada, alarmed because acid rain — caused by industrial smoke — is destroying North America's forests and lakes, wants a joint clean-up campaign immediately.

But the United States says more scientific research into pollution is needed first.

Reagan administration committed to stronger relations with China

By Alver Carlson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan has decided that strengthened ties with China as a buffer against Soviet influence will remain a key element in U.S. foreign policy, despite criticism from some members of his Republican Party.

This was the message hammered home by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan during a five-day trip to China last week in advance of the president's visit there starting on April 26.

The president, like other conservative Republicans, has a long record of support for the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan, and this commitment has been a problem as his administration has sought to improve relations with Peking.

But in public and private statements, Mr. Regan made clear that Washington will continue the process begun 12 years ago when President Richard Nixon opened the way to renewed relations with mainland China.

Using trade as one way to bind the two countries together, Mr. Regan initiated a new tax treaty that will help American businessmen in their dealings with the Chinese.

This will be signed by the president during his visit.

Mr. Regan also paved the way for a new trade mission by U.S. businessmen sponsored by the Chinese government and the U.S.

Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), which provides insurance and other aid to U.S. firms doing business abroad.

He pressed Peking for an investment treaty that would allow U.S. banks and other financial institutions greater flexibility in the Chinese market, but it appeared doubtful this could be concluded before the president's visit.

Speaking to reporters who accompanied him, Mr. Regan said the Chinese were eager to make the

ently and diplomatic sources say there is some question whether they need the amounts agreed upon earlier.

U.S. Trade Representative Bill Brock is tentatively scheduled to visit Peking in mid-April, but a spokesman for his office said last week that no position had been taken within the government on whether to seek a new grain agreement.

During his Far East trip Mr. Regan also visited Tokyo, where he openly criticised the Japanese for their refusal to open up financial markets to more direct investment by foreign banks, and South Korea, where he delivered a similar message.

The United States is suffering a \$20 billion trade deficit with Japan and Mr. Regan said that without more opportunity to sell American products in that market, protectionist pressures within the U.S. could increase.

He also said that with Mr. Regan facing a re-election campaign, the overall U.S. trade deficit, projected at \$100-110 billion this year, could become a political issue.

In South Korea, Mr. Regan called on the government to take steps to allow greater access to the country's markets.

U.S. officials said the South Koreans were extremely anxious to hear about the president's trip to China since improved relations between Peking and Washington could have an impact on Seoul.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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MITCHELL'S MINOR MIRACLE

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 4 2
♥ 10 7 2
♦ A K 10 9 6 4
♣ 3

WEST
♠ A J 10 6 3
♥ Void
♦ Q J 5
♣ A 10 9 7 4

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 5
♥ Q 9 5
♦ 8 7 2
♣ K Q 6

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ A K J 8 6 4 3
♦ 3
♣ J 8 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ 1 ♦ 2 ♣ 3 ♦
4 ♥ 4 ♦ 5 ♥ Pass
Pass Dble Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

Of America's great players, few were held in greater esteem than Victor Mitchell of New York. This quiet defense, from the final match of the 1964 World Team Olympiad, sticks in our memory. In retrospect, it seems obvious — but would you have found it at the table?

In one room, the Americans had reached five hearts after a preemptive opening by South. North never got to show his diamonds, West led a diamond and declarer was able to get rid of his spade loser and had no trouble making 11 tricks. At Mitchell's table

South, Italy's great star Pietro Forquet, elected to open one heart and became declarer at five hearts, doubled after a competitive auction.

Mitchell led the ace of spades, then shifted to a low diamond! Declarer won the ace and led a club from the table. East won and shifted to a trump and declarer had no reason not to fly with the ace. He ruffed a club, stuffed a club loser on the king of diamonds, returned to hand with a ruff and trumped another club. But he still had to concede a trick to the queen of trumps for down one.

See what would happen if, instead of the crucial diamond shift, Mitchell had continued with spades at trick two. Declarer would ruff and concede a club to East. He would win the trump return with the king and, with the position revealed, he could recover by playing three rounds of diamond, ruffing in hand. A club ruff would leave declarer in dummy with this position:

NORTH
♠ 8
♥ 10
♦ 10 9 6
♣ —

WEST
♠ J 10
♥ —
♦ —
♣ A 10 9 7 4

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 5
♥ Q 9 5
♦ 8 7 2
♣ K Q 6

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ A K J 8 6 4 3
♦ 3
♣ J 8 5 2

Now declarer leads a winning diamond from dummy. If East refuses to ruff, declarer discards his club loser and then can take the heart finesse for his contract. If East ruffs, declarer overruffs, ruffs his losing club in dummy and then can get back to his hand with a ruff to draw the last trump, and so make his contract.

Handwritten signature: "J. Mitchell"